

FREEZONE

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Sometimes you wonder if this fight is worthwhile. The precious moments are all lost in the tide. They're swept away and nothing is what it seems. A feeling of belonging to your dreams. Group: Rites LP: Look Sharp. Song: Listen to Your Heart

Creative Strokes in JTV's Paint Box

By Khaldoun Tabaza
Special to The Star

MY WATCH read 10 a.m. when I passed the military security point at the gate of Jordan Television (JTV). At this time of the morning, there is usually minimum activity in this vital establishment. The only sound I heard was the footsteps of my rubber sport shoes on the empty floors as I walked through the empty corridors. Amid the relative quiet that envelops the entire building, my target location, the "Paint Box room", was an exception.

Computers' vast capabilities in graphic production have made them indispensable tools in visual production. Specialised computers like the Paint Box are now used in most television stations around the world to add class and professionalism to their programmes. In 1986, JTV acquired the Paint Box, the first of its kind in the Middle East.



The Paint Box team: Amal Hanball, Bassam Bayrooti and Munther Hamarneh (from left to right)

trait-drawing artist to give him useless unclear descriptions has gone", explains Bassam Bayrooti, who studied as an optician in Italy. "All he has to do now is to choose from the different patterns of eyes, ears, noses, moustaches, etc., that are stored within the memory of the Paint Box, and then the machine constructs the face of the suspect."

The Paint Box can also be used



to draw backgrounds to accompany the news bulletins, particularly when there is no available film footage.

"When Rasheed Karama, the late prime minister of Lebanon was assassinated... we drew an exploded chopper with a map of Lebanon showing the departure point and the point at which the chopper exploded, indicated with arrows," Bassam says. "Everybody liked our work and international news agencies used it in their reports. That was our first real work. Since then, the Paint Box drawings became a permanent feature of the news bulletins in JTV."

Computerised graphic were also introduced in educational, sport, and children's programmes, as well as for visual aid techniques and programmes' signature signs.

Consisting of operating and central processing units, the Paint Box is operated through built-in menu-driven software. The main menu offers the operators many choices. Very delicate pictures can be drawn using a special pen and drawing panel and a wide selection of colours is available. The programme can also receive video pictures that the operator can change in any desired way. Cartoon animation is another option.

The new logo, which appeared two weeks ago, is an original design by Royal Jordanian Public



Amal Hanball, Bassam Bayrooti, and Munther Hamarneh alternate working on the Paint Box under the supervision of engineer Rasheed Naser. These three artistically-trained individuals work connected shifts, lending increasing originality to the graphics on both channels of JTV.

A British-made machine originally costing JD 64,000 (now worth more than JD 100,000), the Paint Box has many applications outside the sphere of television. It can be used to identify criminals based on witnesses' descriptions.

"The time when the witness used to sit with the police por-

Auto TALK

By Bob Kocher

IF YOU have been looking for new cars lately, or are planning to, and you are confused, you may need an interpreter! I have looked at several new cars at dealerships lately and I had to ask many questions to understand just a few of the new options.

First, there are cars with AWD (2WD and 4WD). How about 2WS and 4WS? When they say 4WS (four-wheel steering), I think of the hook and ladder firetrucks with steering wheel in the back. Then there are SOHC, DOHC and TOHC engines. There also is an engine called EFI-HO. Reminds me of a model train.

One salesman told me the car I was looking at had a high-output, quad-4, 16-valve, dual overhead cams, double-width cam chain and calibrated cylinder heads... engine. What was great was he said it all without stopping to catch his breath.

Some cars have clearcoat finishes and some monochromatic paint treatments. Side mirrors are monochromatic, some have high performance from fascia treatment. One of my favourite options is the energy absorbing sun visor. Another favourite of mine is a theft deterrent system available if you buy the compact disc player system. Maybe the player has a song that will scare anyone off. I give up!

Some manufacturers offer sunroofs; some offer moon roofs. I guess one is for sun fun people, while the other is for people who get their fun from full moons. Another one that took some time for me to figure out is the supplemental inflatable restraint system. What a name for an old bag of air.

This next one I like because I enjoy fixing old cars. When the salesman told me this car had self-restoring bumpers, well, Car Bob was listening to his every word.

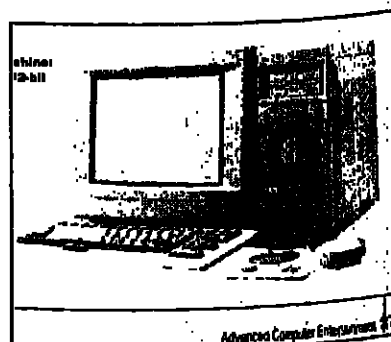
If you are buying a new car or just looking, don't be confused. At every dealership someone will be happy to explain what ABS or MPI mean. They can make you as smart as you like about all the interesting new features and options. After all, buying a new car without some new options would be like stopping by my garage after a big race and not eating any of the tacos, refried beans, or raisin-filled cookies!

INTERFACE AMER KURDI CD-Revolution

FRUSTRATED WITH your computer's limited storage capacity? Forget floppies and hard disks. Compact Disks (CD) are now set to become the storage medium of the 90s.

Featuring staggering storage capacities of up to 330 Megabyte of information per single disk, CD's beat today's hard disk mass-storage standards hands down. Leading research and development firms have recently solved earlier CD's non erasability problems and the state of the art computer systems like the Fujitsu FM-towns, the Sharp 68000, and the Amiga CD-TV already come with a built in CD player as standard equipment. CD-based systems and drives from the world's leading computer companies are also in the pipeline.

CD technology, besides opening the doors to enormous storage capabilities, has met with the recent upsurge of multimedia applications development to create CD-I, or Compact Disk Interactive. With so much potential for storing huge libraries of graphics and sound, what we're talking about here goes beyond our usual perception of interactive computer software to something not entirely unlike interactive television, meaning yet another giant leap forward in computer user-friendliness. The CD of today could be replaced by digitised, animated, possibly interactive requesters, and the magical formula of generatively available digitised graphics, with sound and music to match given the idea of the impact it could have on tomorrow's games and educational software, not to mention the spin-off it could add to your company's business presentations.



CD-Storage medium of the 90's!



A message of love page 14

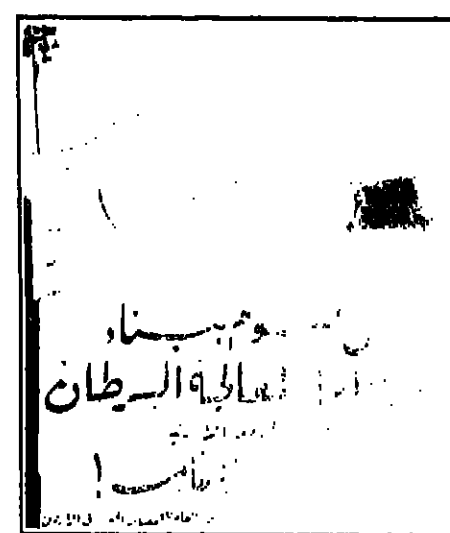
The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

Amman, 26 July—2 August 1990

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Vol : 1 No :26



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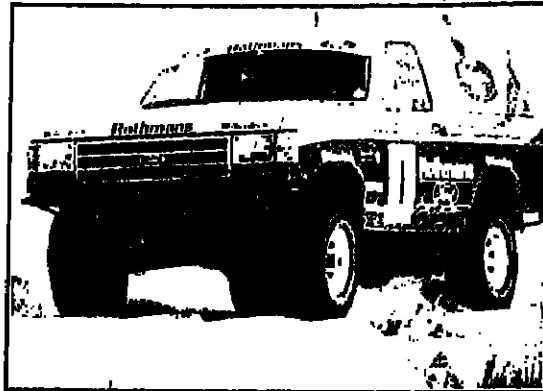
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RALLIES

Jordan
'Raid'
kicks off
todaySaeed Al-Hajri's
"Mean Machine"

AMMAN (Star) — The third round of the Desert Cross Country Championship, known as the Jordan Cross Country Raid, will kick off today, Thursday at the Amman Inter-Continental Hotel, taking 23 teams through the mountains, deserts, and valleys, and on the gravel roads of Jordan.

Qatari speed ace Saeed Al-Hajri and his Irish co-driver Fred Gallagher are currently leading the championship with 26 points in their newly modified Rothmans Ford Bronco which has been dubbed the "Mean Machine." The desert racing car's five speed manual gear box has

been replaced with a three speed automatic gear box and a new braking system has been added. Suhail Bin Khalisa of the United Arab Emirates is following closely behind Al-Hajri with 25 points. Race officials are still waiting to hear if former two-time winner of the 500-kilometre

Jordan Cross Country Raid, Abbas Mousani, will compete this year.

The Jordanian phase of the championship is unique. It is a "raid" rather than a "rally". Unlike the specified course of a rally, raid competitors are free to choose their own route provided that they begin at the specified starting point, pass through the nine checkpoints in the proper directions and cross the finish line. This race has nine special stages with the longest being 74.22 kilometres at Mudeisad.

The Desert Cross Country Championship has taken the teams from Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE across Dubai and Oman and will move on to Kuwait in September and Qatar in October.

Mausawi accounts
for disengagement
from Mitsubishi

AMMAN (Star) — Qatari Rally driver Abbas Al-Mausawi has said that his resignation from the Mitsubishi Rally Art Middle East team was stemmed by the team's inefficient management. In a signed statement which was made available to The Star on Tuesday, Mr. Mausawi said that the "technical and managerial mistakes" that the team's management made at the beginning of the Desert Challenge Championship made him "afraid for his name and reputation."

"I don't want to lose the reputation which took me 11 years to build because of the mistakes of others," Mausawi said.

On the record
By Amman Staff

● The Joint Higher Jordanian-Iraqi Committee will hold its next meeting in the Iraqi capital towards the end of August.

Co-operation in the field of energy and means of increasing the trade volume between Jordan and Iraq will be the main issues on the agenda of the meeting.

● Five ambassadors will be among the Foreign Ministry's personnel who will soon retire, Foreign Ministry sources have said.

● The Prime Ministry will in the coming few weeks issue new regulations concerning the exemption of Jordanian citizens residing outside the country from the obligatory two-year military service. If they pay an amount of \$1000 in hard currency to the Treasury.

Sources close to the Prime Ministry have said that Jordanian citizens could process the exemption procedures at Jordanian embassies abroad. Any Jordanian citizen who has reached the drafting age could apply for exemption from the service if he has been residing outside the country for more than one year.

For Sale

A 1984 Qatar-licensed BMW 735i Manual TRNS, excellent conditions, full options (27) dark green colour. Price negotiable, for review or more information, Call 671007, between 7 a.m. — 12 noon.

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For more information on how MEBA can help you in Jordan and abroad, phone Riad al Khouri or Hala Aghabi at 621540.

BP 2000 TROPHY
JORDAN CROSS COUNTRY RAID
26-27 July, 1990

Spectators are welcome at all locations along the route of the event. Route maps showing where the high speed special stages will take place are available at the Raid office at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel. The following locations and times are suggested as being suitable.

PROLOGUE SPECIAL STAGE, THURSDAY 26TH JULY

Maximum speed test to determine the starting order for the afternoon section starts at exactly 10.00 a.m. and can be viewed from the airport highway between the Madaba and Naur Interchanges. From Amman drive towards the International Airport, at the sign to Kan Zaman and Bisharat Horse Club pass under the highway and return towards Amman for approximately one kilometre. The track used by the rally cars is next to the highway on the right.

START OF THE RAID, THURSDAY 26TH JULY AT 3.00 P.M.

FINISH OF THE FIRST PART AT 6.30 P.M.

RESTART OF THE RAID, FRIDAY 27TH JULY AT 10.00 A.M.

FINISH OF THE SECOND PART, FRIDAY 27TH JULY AT 6.15 P.M.

All at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

SERVICING OF THE COMPETING CARS AND REGROUPING,
FRIDAY 27TH JULY, 1.00 P.M. TO 2.45 P.M. at the Alia Gateway Hotel.

Spectators are reminded that cars will be travelling at very high speed on the special stages so please stand well clear of the rally route in the interests of your safety.



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Around 3000 cancer cases registered annually

Funding problems plague plans to build treatment centre

By A Star Staff Writer

DESPITE THE fact that an estimated 3000 Jordanians fall victims to cancer every year (one in every thousand), comprehensive cancer treatment facilities are virtually non-existent in the country. Particular types of treatment are available at certain hospitals, but the need for a specialised treatment unit and a cancer registry that keeps accurate statistics of cancer patients is becoming more urgently felt.

There is no cancer registry in Jordan and this is desperately needed for an overall comprehensive cancer care system. It has not been established for financial reasons," explains Dr Hani G. Jumean, chairman of the department of medicine and chief of the oncology and hematology unit at King Hussein Medical Centre (KHMC).

"Our statistics show that there are between 2500 to 3500 new cancer cases per year in Jordan, but these statistics are questionable. A patient will get treatment at one hospital and be counted as a new case and then the same patient will go to another hospital for a different treatment and be counted as a new case there as well," he says.

With these problems in mind, Dr Abdallah Al-Khatib, director of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), is overseeing the creation of the Al-Amal Cancer Center which will serve as a registry, bring treatment and diagnostic equipment to one location and provide opportunities for training and research.

The GUVS is working with the University of Jordan to establish the centre as part of the University's medical school campus. The agreement to work together will enable professors to conduct research and help provide the poor and needy with free access to treatment (through referrals from the university hospital).

"Cancer medicine is expensive, so it's hard to provide excellent first class treatment without the proper funding," Dr Jumean emphasised. "People have to be motivated to give donations. In the United States, even if a family loses someone to cancer they still donate money to research. It's rare that you see that here in Jordan," he says.

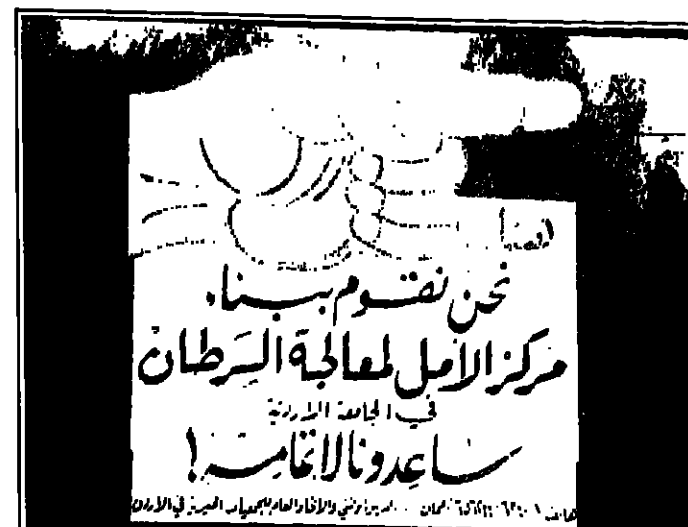
"...statistics show that there are between 2500 to 3500 new cancer cases per year in Jordan, but these statistics are questionable. A patient will get treatment at one hospital and be counted as a new case and then the same patient will go to another hospital for a different treatment and be counted as a new case there as well..."

Construction of the 10,000 square metre facility began in October 1989. The facility will consist of a seven-storey hospital and a separate radiotherapy unit made up of four identical rooms. Phase one of the project, which includes the first four floors of the hospital and two radiotherapy treatment rooms, is scheduled to be operational by the end of 1991. The rest of the facility will hopefully be completed by 1994.

The total cost for construction alone is expected to reach JD 3 million, while additional funds for training the staff and equipping the building are also needed. The radiotherapy unit alone will cost \$ 6 million.

"We hope that friendly governments and some financial institutions will help equip the center," explains Dr Al-Khatib.

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A road sign pointing to the future location of Al Amal Cancer treatment centre

However, funding problems have plagued the center since its conception. So far JD 1.4 million have been collected from Jordanian citizens in "Knock on the Door" campaigns. A Jordanian who lost a son to cancer has also agreed to finance an entire floor. However, an additional JD one million are still needed to complete the construction of phase one.

"The minute we started this project we were determined to finish, but we knew there would be problems financially," the doctor says.

The GUVS has scheduled another door-to-door fund-raising campaign for late September. With the help of the Ministry of Education, 10,000 student volunteers will knock on Jordanians' doors and ask for donations to help finance the first phase of the project.

"Cancer medicine is expensive, so it's hard to provide excellent first class treatment without the proper funding," Dr Jumean emphasised. "People have to be motivated to give donations. In the United States, even if a family loses someone to cancer they still donate money to research. It's rare that you see that here in Jordan," he says.

but not our facilities," explains Yousef. "People ask us why we want to work with cancer patients and I tell them if we don't, who is going to work with them."

Dr Jumean also notes that though Jordan has a surplus of doctors, unemployment problems were drawing them away from the country. With the oncology field already finding it difficult to attract specialists because of the negative social attitudes about cancer, this emigration is especially disconcerting.

"The Arab Gulf states are attracting our highly qualified doctors. Unless something is done to improve the economic position of doctors in this country, we are going to lose a great number of these highly qualified people," stresses Dr Jumean who is leaving Jordan in three weeks to work in the United States for one year.

Despite the discouraging outlook, Dr Jumean and his colleagues Dr Khalief Omari agree that there is a definite need to expand cancer treatment facilities in Jordan.

Dr Omari explains that KHMC holds out patient clinics for cancer care two days a week. During those two days, the five oncology specialists see an average

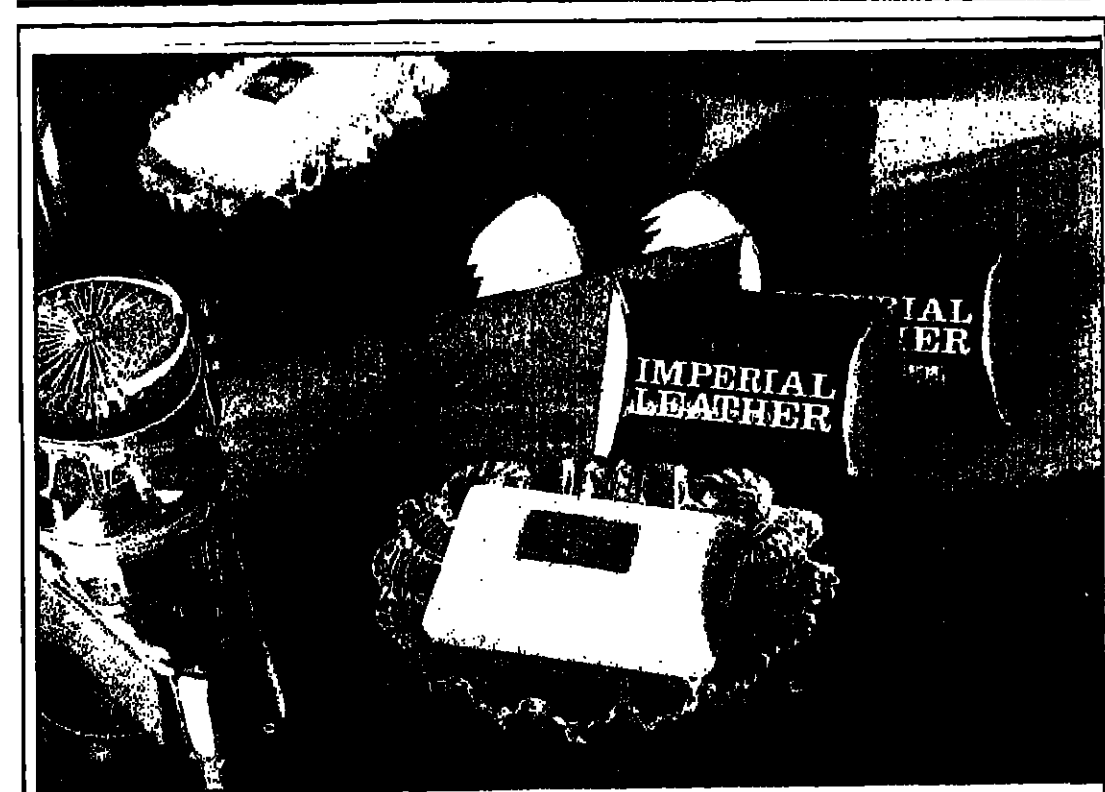
of 40-60 patients on each day, in addition to the patients staying at the hospital.

"We cannot cope with this. We have to work harder now to keep up the standards that we had in 1984 when we saw much less patients," notes Dr Omari. "We still give good service and everything is updated, but we are lacking a supporting facility."

Ideally, Jordan's cancer treatment facilities should be increased in number and spread throughout Jordan, opined Dr Jumean. There is currently only one radiation unit to serve the entire country while "there should be one machine for every million people."

He said that the target is to have treatment facilities in the north and south so that cancer patients will not have the added expense of travelling to Amman. The doctor also believes another facility in Amman is needed.

With the help of Dr Al-Khatib, the GUVS, and student volunteers, the Al-Amal Cancer Center may just take care of that need. His Majesty King Hussein is scheduled to lay the cornerstone for the building in August, but only with public support and donations can the centre's concrete skeleton become a productive facility.

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Farmers protest water rationing programme

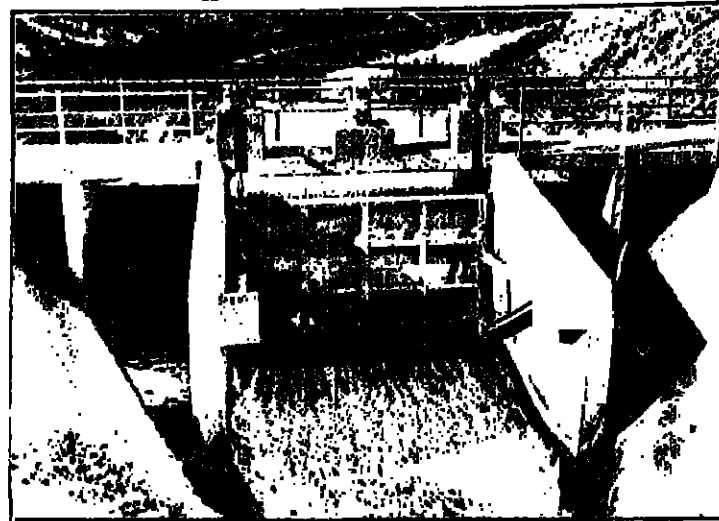
Jordan Valley agriculture could be at stake

By a Star Staff Writer

JORDAN VALLEY farmers have been reaping the benefits of a devalued dinar by exporting cucumbers, tomatoes, green peppers and fruits to faraway markets in Europe and the Gulf. Long gone are the days when the government had to intervene by determining who plants what in order to save farmers from over-producing certain items or stockpiling unmarketable tomatoes, for example. In the view of many investors, agriculture is the best export oriented business in Jordan today. But the picture is not all rosy, according to the representative of Jordan Valley's more than 6000 farmers. Agriculture needs water and water scarcity is becoming a way of life for Jordanians, a reality with which they have to live and cope during the present decade.

The water issue is now topping the list of priorities of both farmers and the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA). The Jordan Valley Farmers Association (JVFA) President Eng. Talal Ghezawi, is worried that the water issue is not being handled properly by both JVA and the Ministry of Agriculture. He warns that while 1200 small farmers at the Jordan Valley have already incurred losses by skipping summer farming due to water scarcity this season, big farmers, especially owners of banana and fruit plantations, may be next in turn. If Ghezawi's worst nightmare is allowed to come true the economic and financial setbacks on Jordan will be tremendous.

JVFA, which was established in 1979, warns that unless the water issue becomes the main preoccupation of the Minister of Agriculture and JVA's Secretary General, Jordan Valley farmers will have to prepare for the



King Abdallah Canal: Life artery to Jordan Valley farmers

worst. Worst in Mr Ghezawi's view are a number of problems foremost among them is the failure to provide essential irrigation water to citrus and banana trees during the dry and hot summer months.

"We are already receiving 20 per cent less than what is needed to irrigate these trees," he says. "Our plantations can probably withstand such a decrease for a year, maybe two. But if this shortage continues then these trees will definitely suffer."

The problem of small summer farmers is not the main issue, according to JVFA. The real problem, Mr Ghezawi says, is the attitude of both JVA and the Ministry of Agriculture. "There simply isn't enough research or planning for the future at any level. Take the case of the Higher Agricultural Council for example. Until now the council did not even confront the water issue in the Jordan Valley," says Ghezawi.

Headed by the Minister of Agriculture and comprising repre-

sentatives from various official, public and private sectors, the council's main objective is to develop agriculture, propose solutions to its problems and put forward agricultural policies in the context of present circumstances. Mr Ghezawi accuses officials of waiting until the problem occurs before they begin work and debating on the best way to confront it. "We know for sure that there is a critical shortage in water in Jordan. We understand this problem, but we need to act swiftly to prevent it from damaging a very important industry in Jordan," says Ghezawi. For example, he says that farmers prepare their nurseries for the winter season in September and early October. "These nurseries need plenty of water. JVA's current water distribution programme will not work for the nurseries," says Ghezawi who owns seven plots of land (each plot is between 30 to 40 dunums) in the Jordan Valley.

Jordan Valley farmers are worried that their share of the water



Mr Ghezawi

of King Abdallah Canal, previously called East Ghor Canal, is being overpumped to Amman for drinking. JVA's Secretary General Dr Abdul Aziz Wishah denies this (see story) and says water is pumped to Amman only for a few months. The farmers are worried that the flow of water in the Yarmouk River, Jordan's most important water resource, is becoming critically low. Mr Ghezawi estimates that the current flow has been reduced from 2.4 metres per second to 2 metres per second. Added to this is the fact that practically not all of Jordan's main dams were filled to total capacity last winter and those which were filled to near capacity, like Wadi Al Arab and Shahrabil dams, are being used to water urban centres.

JVA's water distribution programme was put into effect in April. Many farmers see their quota as too low or barely enough to satisfy their needs. Farmers have suggested that JVA and the Water Authority find other sources of water to feed Amman and other urban centres. They point to mud flats and valleys in the east and south, like Wadi Husban.

"It is ridiculous to spend all that money to pump water from a point 300 metres below sea level to another 900 metres above sea level," says Ghezawi. He was referring to the Deir Alla project whose purpose is to pump water from the King Abdallah Canal to Amman.

Now JVFA is calling upon JVA, which Mr Ghezawi describes as a government within a government, to take immediate measures to maintain the main canal and its tributaries, complete its project of replacing open canals with pipelines, encourage farmers to use modern irrigation techniques like sprinklers and drip irrigation, impose a proportional billing policy on water consumption and introduce new methods of farming as well as using better seeds and plants in the Valley.

In addition to this Mr Ghezawi calls upon the government to give soft loans to small farmers "in order to keep them in business." He says from his experience he knows that small farmers tend to honour their debts more than big landowners.

"In addition the government must move forward by finding ways to execute official agricultural policies. It is not useful to us to make resolutions which are not carried out."

To help the government do this Mr Ghezawi suggests that the private sector be given additional representation on the Higher Agricultural Council. "This is the best way to avoid the current confusion in agricultural policy." He accuses JVA of suffering from bureaucratic ailments and unnecessary complications. "The (JVA) seems to forget that their main job is to develop the canal (King Abdallah Canal), but we will give the new secretary general a chance."

JVA to launch canal rehabilitation project

By a Star Staff Writer

WATER IS a very serious business for Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) newly-appointed Secretary General Dr Abdul Aziz Wishah. He says that the authority's main concern for the past few months has been the execution of a very strict water rationing programme to Jordan Valley farmers. With an annual deficit in the flow of Yarmouk River waters, King Abdallah Canal's main source of irrigation water, of an average of 50 million cubic metres in the past three years, JVA had no alternative but to reduce the normal consumption of irrigation water especially during the summer months.

Because of the drought which has been affecting the country for the last three years, dams built on the eastern valleys have not helped meet JVA's annual water demands. "Our main concern is to preserve permanent plantations like banana, citrus, grapes and other kind of trees," says Dr Wishah.

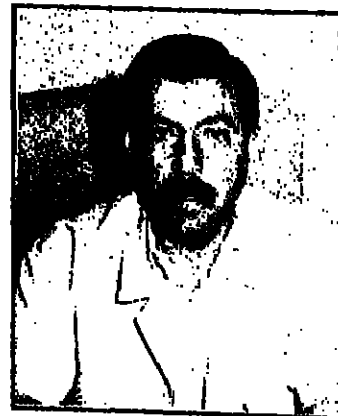
To do this, four main measures have been adopted by JVA. "First we stopped water pumping from the canal to Amman

(through Deir Alla), second, we banned summer farming in the valley, third, we terminated irrigation by night to maintain an acceptable level of water in the canal and its tributaries so that we can pump water to all those who need it as part of the water distribution programme and fourth we applied a water rationing system by sectors," says Dr Wishah.

Now water is pumped to farmers three days a week from seven in the morning to three in the afternoon. The rationing programme has been studied carefully in accordance with water levels in dams and from the Yarmouk River.

And according to Dr Wishah, the programme is successful. Not so, say the farmers (see related story). In addition to hurting summer farmers, there is fear that permanent plantations may be affected by water shortages.

JVA charges that despite its ban on summer farming, "many farmers had gone ahead and planted large areas with mulukhia (a leafy plant) which needs plenty of water." But Dr Wishah refutes allegations that groves and citrus trees will be affected with the water rationing programme.



Dr Wishah

"I personally had visited such plantations and was satisfied with what I had seen," he says.

Still, JVA is not contented with rationing water as a final measure. According to Dr Wishah, work is continuing on a project to divert irrigation methods from open aqueducts to pipelines along the 110-kilometre long canal. But, he says, pumping water to Amman during the early months of the year is unlikely to stop until new water resources are found.

This possibility sounds remote. Jordan's water future now lies in the completion of work on Al Wihda Dam on Yarmouk River,

which has now stopped because of lack of funds. Meanwhile, the Water Authority will continue to depend on canal water to feed urban centres, mainly Amman, while hoping that new and cheap technology will allow it to desalinate brackish underground water between Zerqa and Husban springs.

The most important project for JVA, however, is the "rehabilitation" of the King Abdallah Canal, whose tender documents are expected to be ready before the end of this year. Estimated cost of this project will range from \$10 to 15 million and it is hoped that work could begin as early as the beginning of next year.

A study by two European consultancy firms is currently being carried out on the rehabilitation and upgrading of the canal. Financed jointly by the Jordanian government and the European Community (EC), the study aims at determining the location and types of rehabilitation work on the canal, preparing tender documents, establishing a hydraulic model for the canal, refurbishing of check structures and gated waterways and providing an economic and financial analysis of the project.

Dr Wishah says the project, which will probably require foreign funding, will secure the future of farming in the Jordan Valley. "One of the most important aspects of the projects is the hydraulic model of the canal," he says. The model will seek to determine how water levels at each turnout in the canal can be maintained above a fixed minimum level to ensure a constant supply of water and also to prevent the overtopping of canal banks. This will help JVA determine its future water distribution programmes in relation to available water levels in the canal.

The study is also looking into the effects of Al Wihda Dam on water supply in the canal. Until the dam is built and water sharing rights are agreed upon among countries bordering the Yarmouk River, JVA and thousands of farmers will have to settle for the little water they get from rain, an exhausted Yarmouk River and dams along Jordanian valleys. If drought continues and no additional water resources are put to use to serve urban centres like Amman and Irbid, the water issue will continue to haunt both farmers and JVA officials.

26 JULY 1990

Iraqi artists splash out frustration on canvas

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

THE JORDAN Plastic Arts Association is currently displaying 43 works by 10 Iraqi artists at its gallery. In this show, a variety of mediums have been utilised in portraying themes concerning human anatomy and expressive visages.

Violent and illustrative colours prevail in all of the paintings. Artist Qasem Al-Sibti, responsible for choosing and bringing the works from Iraq, relates the fiery colours as an aftermath of the Iraq/Iran War. Artists felt an imperative need to make up for the time spent serving in the war by splashing out their frustrations on canvas.

"During the war, Iraqi art in general did not express the prevailing mood, for the government managed to distance the ghost of war from Baghdad (the capital of art and culture in Iraq)," says Al-Sibti. "The Saddam Art Centre, the most significant art institute in Baghdad, was established at the time."

Al-Sibti's abstracts are done in a technique involving bright sprays of oranges, yellows and reds with some patches made darker than the surrounding space. The paper used is not suitable for paint since its surface does not absorb liquid. So, the fast drying acrylic forms, multi-shaped and minute, dot across the paper.

Like most artists, Al-Sibti does not reveal his materials by name. He explains that another substance is sponged and brushed onto the paint causing it to ad-



"Martyrdom" by Hisham Hanon

here to the paper. The resulting reaction creates darker areas used by the artist as points of focus.

This style is evident in all of his acrylic work depicting Iraqi farmers against rural settings. The toughened faces, the broad foreheads, the high cheekbones, all hint at the origins of these people. This artist is fascinated with dramatic faces and at the beginning of his academic career he spent hours sitting at coffee houses sketching people there.

Later, he turned to the more

traditional and classical desert landscapes dominated by galloping Arabian horses, including one which is exhibited at the gallery. The man who greatly influenced him in this genre of painting was his teacher, the internationally-known Iraqi artist Faik Hassan. But now Al-Sibti has developed his own style with his self-expressive acrylic renderings.

The extent which Al-Sibti was affected by the war can be seen in his earlier works. His two oil paintings reflect a troubled and

anxious spirit. They are a tremendous contrast to the eight acrylics. Unlike the previous fauvist colours, here sombre greys and shades of black are applied.

In "Man in a Wadi" a group of men are painted in very muted colours and then outlined in orange and mauve lines. There are two points of focus here. One is the gun heavily highlighted in the foreground, and the other is the patch of light rising above the harsh black mountains surrounding the men. Hope is symbolically represented through the illumination in the backdrop. This play of light devices the positive and negative dimensions and simultaneously enables the artist to move objects back and forth. A final coating of heavy varnish on the work completes the bleak and morbid atmosphere.

Sadiq Kawish, like Al-Sibti, employs lustrous hues for his small rectangular prints. Like most of the exhibited works, these pieces are abstract. These paintings can be observed and analysed in many ways. At one time they seem to be landscapes and at another moving objects, but in each reproduction stark black and orange stand out.

The only non-abstract painting in the show is Hisham Hanon's eighteenth-century interpretation of one of Michelangelo's romantic scenes. The classical moon reflected off a stream and the bluish hues emitting a serene atmosphere characterise a romantic atmosphere. However, this work seemed misplaced in this show both in terms of style and

theme. Iman Abdallah was the only woman to participate in this group presentation. Her abstract consists of bright oranges and seemingly haphazard circular lines. Seen from a distance these lines become parts of arms and legs which give way to human figures in motion.

Karim Saifo depicts the human anatomy using a cubist technique. Faces are made up of two eyes yet because they reflect traces of cubism a face becomes two and even three. Cubism is not strictly followed though since the lines are not sharp and definite; rather, they lean more on curvature. These faces seem agitated and the overall mood is disturbing.

A neighbouring painting by the same artist seems to hint at the reasons for such impressions: a greenish female body is torn violently in half revealing protruding veins and arteries. In the lower half of the body lies a figure with its mouth bound in white material wrapped around its head several times — only the eye can be seen. On asking about Saifo's background, I found out that he had lived in France for some years and had a lot of difficulties readjusting to his own culture when he went back home.

The works exhibited at the Jordan Plastic Arts Association Gallery carry such a powerful over flow of feeling that one leaves the hall with a mixture of sadness and a sense of having lived through some of these artists' experiences. The show runs until 28 July.

Nabataean pottery comes to life in Jerash

By a Star Staff Writer

IN A quiet corner of the ancient city of Jerash, secluded from the crowds and commotion of the city's cultural festival, an experiment is being carried out to bring the craft of the Nabataean potters of Petra back to life.

The experiment in question involves the construction of a model of an ancient pottery kiln, based on the plan of a kiln found at Zurabab — a "suburb" of Petra — in 1980. The team involved in the experiment are an archaeologist from the Department of Antiquities, Dr Khairieh Amr, and James Mason, a ceramics teacher from Yarmouk University. This experiment is a stage in their practical study of fine Nabataean pottery manufacturing techniques, in which they are attempting to re-create the famous "egg-shell" ware produced by the Zurabab potters almost two thousand years ago.

The co-workers have already achieved some success in reproducing the ancient pottery using clay from Wadi Musa. The results were very thin bowls possessing a metallic ring and red

colour that were characteristic of the originals, indicating that the clay they used may have been the same raw material utilised by the Nabataean potters.

For several months now, the building of the reconstructed interpretation of the Zurabab kiln has been underway at Jerash. Although archaeological excavations directed by Dr Fawzi Zayadine of the Department of Antiquities show that the original kiln had been cleared during the late Byzantine period to be used for storage, thus removing important sections of its original design, and the "roof" and parts of the walls had since collapsed, enough remains to show that it was an early type of a simple up-draught kiln where fuel would have been lit underneath a floor onto which the pottery was stacked. Flue gases would have passed through the pottery chamber then out at the top of the kiln. Similar types of kilns are still used for pottery making in Jordan today, which served as

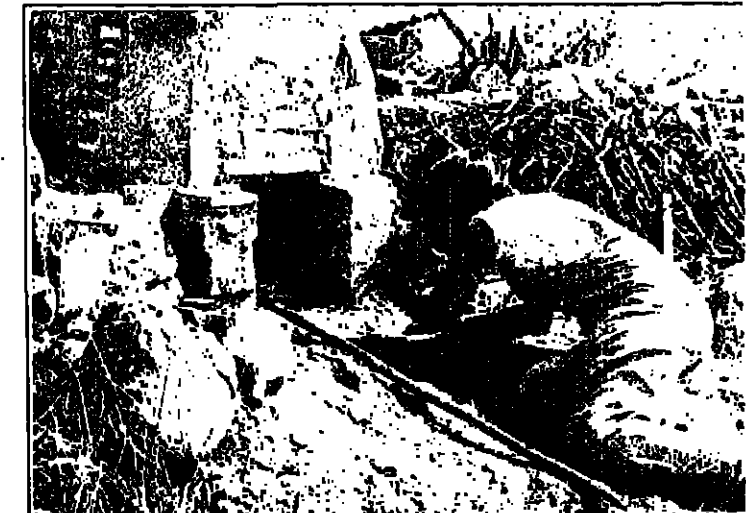
case studies and helped archaeologists fill in the missing gaps in their reconstruction work at Jerash.

The reconstructed kiln was built to a third of the original size, which had an internal diameter of over 3 metres. Bricks for the building were hand-made using combinations of clays found at a road cut in the village of Sakeb, between Jerash and Ajlun. The clays there are a nuisance to road users as the area tends to be slippery after heavy rains, but they proved to be a blessing to the team as they are highly refractory and able to withstand high temperatures.

The structure was ready for its first firing during the Eid Al Adha holiday, after much hard work and great help from people usually dealing with more monumental architecture at Jerash. This initial firing was for drying the kiln out, firing the bricks and understanding how the design worked. The team explained that the relationships between the proportions of the different parts of the kiln, fuel type and weather conditions are vital if the kiln is to be efficient. It is thought that Nabataean pottery would have been fired roughly in the region of 900 degrees centigrade over something like a six or sev-

en hour period. The initial experimental firing reached a temperature of 850 degrees centigrade over a six hour period, using a mixture of dead fig and walnut wood collected from the antiquities area of Jerash. It is highly unlikely that the Nabataean potters used these expensive woods for fuel, potters are known to be shrewd in their choice of materials.

Modern potters use saw dust, old car battery shells and used car engine oil for fuel. More likely fuels available to the Zurabab potters would have been various shrubs local to the Petra area, agricultural — such as olive and date palm — waste, and different types of dung, piles of which had been collected at the experimental kiln site ready for use when the kiln is



Checking the flames of the initial firing

actually loaded with pottery. Apart from the obvious academic reasons for carrying out this project, both James and Khairieh hope that their research may find its application through helping to re-introduce a fine forgotten tradition of pottery-making to Petra, Jordan's most acclaimed ancient city, thus enhancing the local crafts and offering an alternative source of income to the people.

THE STAR
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THE STAR

Italy's invisible work force

By Biswajit Choudhury
Special to The Star

"YOU CAN'T go on like this," announce the notices in Trastevere (translation — "across the Tiber"), a quarter of Rome that keeps up the air of a medieval hamlet and a dialect more pronounced than that spoken on the other bank of the river. The face, which is half blanked out on the posters, is the likeness of a North African. The print below exhorts all illegal immigrants in Italy to declare themselves to the authorities and claim a renewable two-year permit to stay.

The government has offered an amnesty as Italy faces up to the fact that there could be up to one million illegal immigrants on its soil.

North Africans, mainly from Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria, are predominant among the immigrants. But the notice also applies to groups as diverse as Ethiopians, Filipinos, Tamils and Bangladeshis, the latter noticeable when they dart out to wash windcreens at traffic lights along the Tiber. They jump nimbly as the cars move off, back to the bank of the river that has nurtured the eternal city.

That quick movement away is perhaps the illegal immigrant's against the most visible presence of authority — the police, normally seen as an enemy to be avoided: having the power to confiscate papers, deport or imprison.

The government hopes to tempt immigrants to legalise their status by an offer of medical care and free schooling. Under the new law immigrants from outside the European Community (EC) who can prove that they arrived in Italy before the end of 1989 can obtain this status.

The idea, according to Claudio Martelli, the socialist deputy prime minister and the inspiration behind the new policy, is to "regulate the flux." Along with assuring immigrants' rights, like

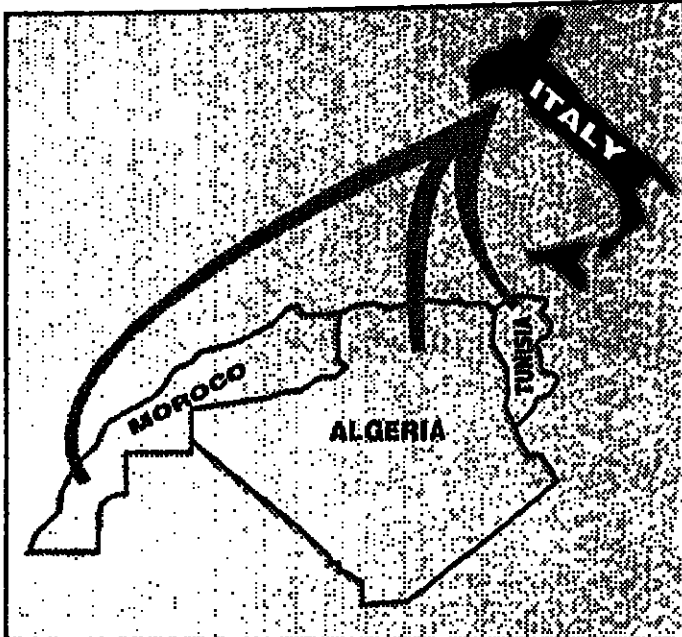
New legislation in Italy aims to persuade illegal immigrants to register their presence — tempting them with offers of medical care and free schooling. It is thought that up to a million people, particularly North Africans from Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria, are at present evading the authorities.

the one allowing equal treatment of Italian and non-EEC workers, he intends to impose entry visas for countries that send the most immigrants to Italy. But the government is reluctant to impose quotas unilaterally for fear of spoiling relations with North African neighbours. Instead it hopes to agree on quotas with these countries.

Traditionally, Italy has been a country of emigration, of those who sought a future in the New World. Even during the '70s emigration flows numbered around 100,000 annually. But with the "economic miracle" beyond doubt, a steady growth of three to four per cent in GDP through the last three years, and the shops full everywhere, people are flowing in the other direction.

In addition to the growing stock of clandestine immigrants that some estimates put at around a million, there are 500,000 foreigners legally present in Italy. This population has more than doubled in the last decade.

For many immigrants from the poorer countries around the Mediterranean, Italy is a natural bridge to Europe — and even beyond, across the Atlantic. A typical example is Dorai, a Tamil Sri Lankan who has been in Rome for a month and works as



a waiter. He speaks no Italian, only a little English and wants eventually to work in Canada. He left his war-ravaged hometown for Italy because it was one of the easier places for which to obtain a visa.

In fact entry rules to the country are still relatively relaxed. For instance, short stay visitors from Turkey and North Africa are admitted without visas. Once inside the Italian peninsula, immigrants can look forward to the scrapping of border checks within the Community planned after 1992, which will make movements much easier.

Italy's 2000 kilometre coastline is itself unpatrolable as far as totally securing it against clandestine entries, though Claudio Martelli has recently announced the use of naval patrols to prevent vessels from attempting to land illegal immigrants. Police say that criminal syndi-

cates, a pervasive feature in Italy, readily import illegal labour, and these immigrants end up working as farm labourers, domestic servants, waiters or street hawkers and sometimes in drugs.

A large influx of immigrants and a visible presence on the streets have fuelled occasional outbreaks of violence. In Florence, where shopkeepers were uneasy about competition from African street hawkers, a gang attacked three North Africans with chains. Later the Socialist mayor of the town used police to clear immigrant street hawkers from city squares and subsequently resigned after Communist allies in the community criticised his handling of the racial tension.

In another incident four immigrants were shot dead, reportedly by members of a local drugs mafia in Naples, the heartland of the Camorra, in a city that combines both incredible beauty and squalor and where riots broke out recently in places that had gone for weeks without water.

Italians are known for their tradition of relative tolerance. Expressions of racism have not gone much beyond occasional posters like the ones placed on the walls of Bologna University by a tiny group of neo-fascists which demanded "Cannibals, Bedouins and Rabbis — out of

Italy." However, as a professor there cautioned, "Recent trends deny the facile theory of self-praise according to which Italians are a 'good people' immune to racist and xenophobic tendencies as well as the opposite catastrophic vision of a closed society and discriminatory culture already rich in the seeds of racism."

What the new law at least implies is the need for quick action, not least for social assistance to immigrants. Giorgio La Malfa, leader of the tiny Republican Party, which is part of the governing coalition, does not agree. He says social assistance is only tempting more arrivals.

The Communists, largest of the opposition parties, voted in favour of the law. But many in the party feel that such legislation was long overdue. "We need much more social assistance like housing and also inter-cultural schools to orient Muslim Arabs and Africans, for example, to a different culture. Besides why do immigrants have to register with the police and not the municipalities? There is a police mentality behind its provisions," said Gianni Palumbo, a communist official responsible for immigrants' problems in the Roma-Lazio region.

In a strange twist in June, a crisis in Italy's hospitals occasioned welcoming words from Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. "We need them," he declared of immigrants. There is an emergency situation in the hospitals because poor work prospects have led to an alarming drop in the number of Italian nurses, and immigrants are being invited to fill the vacancies.

For public work at least, the immigrants need to be registered. By the government's count 150,000 have taken advantage of the amnesty, but it estimates that around 450,000 have yet to report. As the queues lengthened outside the police stations before a 28 June deadline, not all of them were expected to show up.

Africa — In need of a dose of democracy

By Maggie James
Special to The Star

OF THE 46 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, only five — Botswana, Mauritius, Senegal, Gambia and newly-independent Namibia — qualify technically as multi-party democracies.

Inspired by the spread of democracy in East Europe and tired of economic hardship, corruption and government oppression, many Africans are calling for political freedom.

This also applies to donor countries who have pumped billions of dollars in aid to Africa over the last 30 years. They are nowadays more critical of recipient governments — and feel freer to attach political and economic conditions for continuing aid. Recently, the British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd publicly listed for the first time the conditions attached to British aid for Africa.

"Countries tending towards pluralism, public accountability, respect for the rule of law, human rights and market principles

should be encouraged," he said. "Governments who persist with repressive policies, with corrupt management, or with wasteful and discredited economic systems should not expect us to support their folly with scarce aid resources."

Africa is already competing with democracy-aspiring East Europe. Aid workers, diplomats and technical staff have been moved from African programmes to East Europe and it is likely that the continent will face competition from East Europe for monetary aid in the future. All the more reason for autocratic countries concerned to comply with donors' requirements. But there is a reluctance on the part of most of the rulers of recipient countries to change their policies.

Laurence Cockcroft, an economist and development specialist with extensive knowledge of Africa, has examined the ills of the African continent and has his own theories as to why aid programmes have failed to develop Africa. In "Africa's Way: A

Journey From the Past," published by I.B. Tauris, Cockcroft expands on his theories, discussing the impact of colonialism on Africa and the prospects for the continent's future progress.

"I am convinced that the difficulty in interpreting events in contemporary Africa is at least in part the consequence of a general lack of knowledge of what was happening in Africa before the colonial powers took over the continent in the late 19th century," he writes. "The full blown colonial period was extraordinarily brief for most of Africa. It lasted only about 70 years, although contact with the East and Europe had been flourishing for at least 2,000 years. The patterns established in African social structures during the centuries before the colonial period — from politics to agriculture — were not destroyed but survived to influence the present in one form or another," he says.

He opines that at the heart of the moral dilemma in contemporary Africa is the frequent absence of a sense of the public

good, a sense of the welfare of society as a whole. He says, the public good has yet to replace the good of the clan.

Predicting that the growth of the economy of small-scale urban production will, over 50 years, change the face of African politics, Cockcroft explains that the prevalence of many countervailing centres of influence to government, in the form of local associations, will in the long-term make it increasingly difficult for governments to concentrate all the power in their hands. His forecast that the regime of one-party states will cause increasing resentment as a greater range of individual views prevails has already manifested itself in several African nations.

Protests over recently imposed higher food prices in Zambia, where the army has been used against rioters and there have been at least 30 deaths, are linked to political dissatisfaction with the one-party rule of President Kaunda, who has been in

power since independence in 1964.

The author warns that Africa is now moving into a phase in which the rest of the world is less interested in its affairs. The region will be thrown increasingly inward on itself, and have less reason to blame the rest of the world for its problems, which will only be resolved with the internal struggle.

He concludes that Africa can only achieve security when it has developed an internal strength which will come from the accumulation of power by centres of growth which lie far outside the existing bureaucracies of government, party and presidential palace. Then out will go the difficult legacies of hierarchical government, clan loyalties, arbitrary succession and the adjustment to a money-based, urban-led culture. In this way, in as little as 100 years, Africa's doubts about itself — now so prevalent — may finally be removed.

26 JULY 1990

'It is true- I've won the World Cup'

By Franz Beckenbauer

WHEN I wake up, I have to pinch myself: "Franz, it is really true? You have won the World Cup."

The triumph happened the very last day of my six years as team chief. After years of stagnation, football is "in" again. People were turning their backs on the game. Now they are cheering footballers on again.

Over the last few years Boris Becker and Steffi Graf have hogged the limelight. Germany was in tennis euphoria and many people predicted the decline of football. That is why I am so happy that, with my help, football is again the number one sport in Germany and will be for many years.

I do not exaggerate when I say that we deserve to be world champions. Lothar Matthäus showed us the way with his two goals in the first match against Yugoslavia. It was the path which led away from defensive football to attractive attacking play.

We had a solid defence. It paid off for us in getting Bayern Munich libero Klaus Augenthaler fit again. Jurgen Kohler and Guido Buchwald stabilised the defence. Even Andi Brehme, the scorer of our winning goal, has matured into the world's best left-back.

Lothar Matthäus was a superb captain. Despite an earlier injury,



The German soccer team, ecstasy of victory

Thomas Haessler was fit again for the final. Rudi Voller was the best dribbler in the tournament and Jurgen Klinsmann was the fastest and most athletic striker.

During our preparations in Italy I learned to love this team. I had 22 players of impeccable character, which was not the case in Mexico four years ago. There were no differences between the players of note. The attitude of the reserve players was also good. Apart from a couple of outbreaks of temper after our 1-0 win against Czechoslovakia — and those were because we made it unnecessarily

difficult for ourselves in the closing phase — the team was convincing in both fighting and playing ability in every match.

I should praise other teams as well. It is not true that this World Cup saw the lowest standards for the last 20 years. Next to a few average matches, I also saw many good games.

The best was England's 3-2 quarter-final win against Cameroon which went into extra time. All respect to the Africans. They have always been able to play football. But now they have advanced in tackling ability. They have become more athletic and more disciplined tactically, with-

out being stuck rigidly into any one tactical scheme.

I was impressed by 38-year-old striker Roger Milla, but the player who most caught my eye was the extremely mobile attacker Omar Binyick who could fit into any top European club team. Africa will present the biggest challenge to the established football nations in the next century.

I also have respect for England. One should not forget that they have been out off for years from international football at club level because of their ban from European competition. The technically deft striker Gary Lineker belongs with the stars of this tournament. Paul Gascoigne has a great future ahead of him, as perhaps does the England team as a whole for the trend is clearly away from kick-and-rush football.

My great respect also goes to Italy. The host nation was under intense pressure to do well. They started at enormous speed with their 1-0 victory over Austria, then turned on the magic in the 2-0 defeat of Czechoslovakia. I have an affinity for fine players like Giuseppe Giannini. Italy's midfield and defence had the touch of world champions, but in attack, despite Salvatore Schillaci, there were problems which could not be overlooked. And perhaps, Italy was in the end, a victim of the high tempo

of their first five when they lost to Argentina.

European champions the Netherlands improved as the tournament progressed, but Marco van Basten's crisis after a nerve-ridden, murderous season with AC Milan was almost destined. Ruud Gullit could not possibly be in best form. Frank Rijkaard could not do everything on his own. Nevertheless, the Dutch put up quite a fight against us in the second round.

I also want to mention Yugoslavia who we rolled over in our first match but who steadily improved the more Stokovic found his form. And also Czechoslovakia, who with their goalscorer Skuhravy presented technically-assured, and athletic football. With no offence to Argentina, I would have preferred to see Brazil in the tournament a little longer. The way Branco and Jorginho moved forward, the way Dunga and Alencao took control of midfield, and with Gercara up front controlling the ball at high speed — this was top class. It was the highest skill paired with athleticism and fitness.

I would have liked to have met either Italy or Brazil in the final. Both would have deserved it.

The standard of this World Cup was not so bad. Although I am retiring as West German team chief, I shall continue to stay on the ball. And with this column as well.

Soccer stars support Germany's anti-drug campaign 'No Power to Narcotics,' slogan on German team's equipment

By Wolfgang Weber

THE GERMAN national football team does more than compete in World Cup competitions. The country's soccer stars are engaged in another campaign that is no less important. Lothar Matthäus, Rudi Voller & Co. are supporting the "No Power to Narcotics" campaign launched in May by Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Soccer stars, the idols of many young people, have readily agreed to help stem the alarming tide of drug dealing

and taking.

"Given the 70,000 or so drug addicts and nearly 1,000 drug deaths in the Federal Republic of Germany last year alone," the Chancellor told a meeting with the team and team manager, Franz Beckenbauer, "it is most important for us to persuade people in general and young people in particular to live without narcotics and to ostracise drug-taking socially."

The "No Power to Narcotics" campaign is part of the National Anti-Narcotics plan recently

adopted by the Federal and Land governments and local authorities in Bonn.

Politicians and narcotics experts are banking on the widespread popularity of the soccer stars for helping to draw more public attention to the drugs problem. The "No Power to Narcotics" logo will be worn on official T-shirts, jerseys, track-suits and many other items of equipment used, approved and sold by the German Football Association. The Federal Ministry of Youth, Family, Women's Affairs



Franz Beckenbauer and Federal Youth, Family, Women's Affairs and Health Minister Ursula Lehr seen admiring a king-size pizza baked by the catering staff at the team's World Cup base.

and Health have allocated DM5m toward an advertising campaign that will include newspaper and magazine advertisement, TV commercials, stadium advertising and other modes of publicity.

The campaign's general approach is to ostracise drug abuse and to draw attention to positive

alternatives rather than to concentrate, as has been done in the past, on deterrence and the threat of punishment.

Says Chancellor Kohl, the campaign's patron: "life today, despite the problems and worries it may pose, presents young people with greater opportunities than ever before."

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THE STAR 7

Jordan Tanning Co: Good years ahead

AMMAN (STAR) — To its more than 2000 shareholders, the Jordan Tanning Co. Ltd. (JTC) is a very good investment. Its shares are currently valued at JD 2.4 per share (par value per share is JD 1) at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) and its net profits for 1989 were around JD 300,000 compared to JD 158,000 in 1988. But this is only the beginning, says JTC's Director General Eng. Tala Ghezawi.

The 27-year-old company — paid capital JD 1 million — is setting its eyes on exports and has invested heavily to bring its targets close to realisation. By the end of this year, JTC and its subsidiary, The International Company for Leather Products (ICLP) will meet the total demand of manufactured leather goods of the Jordan Armed Forces and the Public Security Dept. Previously army and police imports of these goods were estimated at \$6 million annually.

Both the Civil Consumer Corp. and the Military Consumer Corp. are completely stocked by JTC and ICLP. In addition to local customers, JTC is exporting leather and semi-

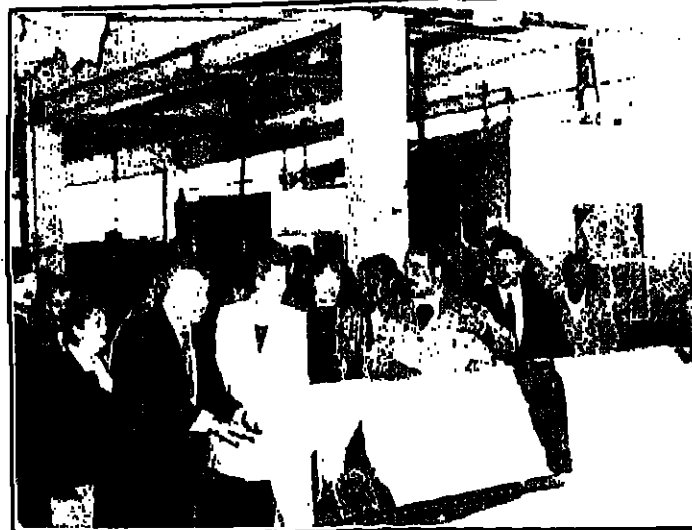
finished leather clothing to Turkey and Italy while selling military footwear to Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

JTC's full acquisition of the shoemaking factory early this year was an excellent move according to Ghezawi. The factory was established as an equal shares joint American-Jordanian venture in 1979. In 1987 JTC bought additional 40 per cent from the Americans and in 1990 secured the remaining 10 per cent.

"We were able to employ 150 labourers at the shoemaking factory," says Ghezawi. "I am proud to say that now we don't have a single foreign worker in both factories."

Ten years ago, JTC invested in new machinery to enhance its quality control system, which is now fully automated. This has enabled the company to increase its production while competing with foreign-made leather goods in terms of quality. Furthermore, the devaluation of the dinar has opened to JTC markets which were closed before especially in Europe and the Gulf.

Now JTC hopes to raise the



Queen Noor during a recent visit to JTC factories

percentage of its exportable products from 36 per cent in 1990 to over 65 per cent within the coming two years. To do this the company will borrow money to buy new machinery to complete its third phase of expansion in order to increase its production. It will also invest in areas of marketing and promotion. Recently, the company began manufacturing woollen blankets and is expected to sell 1000 tons of wool this year.

To combat air pollution especially foul odour which results from the tanning process, the JTC has installed a JD 350,000 purifying station and is working to connect its sewage system with Khirbat Al Samra sewage treatment plant.

Briefs

By Ahmad Shaker

● Contacts are underway among the countries of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) to fully exempt national goods (of no less than 40 per cent of added value) from custom duties and tariffs. Full exemption is expected to apply from 1 January 1991. Until then inter-ACC trade will be conducted in accordance with bilateral agreements and protocols.

● A study is being conducted by the Ministry of Energy to determine the feasibility of using thermal heat in energy generation especially in Zera, Ma'in, Mukhaiba, Azraq and North Shuna. The ministry has also decided to introduce a Gamma Ray continuous monitoring system to monitor ray emission in open areas.

● A new water consumption tariff will be issued soon by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. The tariff will be based on proportional consumption of water. Low and middle sector consumers will not suffer any increases in water billing.

● A delegation will soon visit a number of Arab capitals to conduct financial negotiations with governments and Arab funds to provide necessary funding for the Wihda Dam project on Yarmouk River. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$300 million. Only the tunnel part of the project has been executed until now. Work on the project has been stopped because the World Bank terminated its financing agreement under Israeli pressure. The dam, when completed, will hold 200 million cubic metres of water. Jordan's annual water deficit is estimated at 60 million cubic metres.

● The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) will soon begin drilling for oil in Ein Um Al Joloud area in Ajloun. A road is being paved now to be used in transporting the necessary drilling gear.

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Continued on page 9

The high costs of absorbing Soviet Jews

THE SOVIET immigrants arriving in Israel by the thousands could be just what the country needs to galvanise its struggling economy. But they also spell economic challenges.

Amnon Neubeach, minister for Economic Affairs at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, and economic advisor to Shimon Peres from 1985-1986, said that Israel's greatest challenge will be to "turn the immigrants into a labour force that will change the economy into one with a six-seventeen per cent growth rate."

The question is: how will Israel achieve such a high target without compromising itself on other fronts such as defence spending, social programmes and debt servicing? The government continues to pour money into all three areas and the budget deficit went over five per cent of the gross national product (GNP) last year.

One of the government's biggest challenges will be to lower the inflation rate, which reached 20 per cent at the end of 1989. This was the first major jump in annual inflation since the start of the economic programme of 1985. Former Finance Minister Shimon Peres expects a 25 per cent inflation rate for next year. He also said that the high rate was in part due to expectations of large numbers of Soviet immigrants.

Mounting unemployment and low investment rates have also plagued the Israeli economy, with the occupied territories no longer acting as a one per cent market of the gross domestic product (GDP). Israel was also hit by a debt crisis in the Kibbutzim collective movement and at trade union-owned Koor industries, the largest industrial group.

In 1989, industrial output decreased by roughly two per cent.

The Israeli government has succeeded in implementing reforms in areas such as capital markets. But privatisation programmes and attempts to disengage fixed prices and subsidies have not yielded substantial results. This is the economic context in which the Israeli government will have to welcome its new Soviet citizens.

Israel will have to absorb an unknown number of immigrants in the future. Changes in US immigration policy coupled with fears of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union have steered a larger number of Soviet Jews to Israel. Forty-three per cent of the world's Jewish immigrants landed in Israel in 1989.

More than 3,600 Soviet Jews moved to Israel in December of last year. As many as 100,000 are projected for 1990. Up to 250,000 immigrants are expected in the next three years. Israeli authorities recently announced that they expect up to 20,000 Soviet immigrants per month with the start of the summer. Forty thousand Soviet Jews have arrived since the start of the immigration wave.

In 1990, the cost of accommodating the new arrivals will reach \$1 billion. It costs the Jewish Agency, a semi-official group that oversees the immigrants, \$11,000 to take care of each new family in its first year.

The Bank of Israel has announced that over the next three years, the exodus of Soviet Jews will cost the Israeli government roughly \$3.62 billion. Half of that sum will be generated through foreign and domestic

borrowing. The United States is the source of over \$3 billion in unfettered annual aid. But recent tension between the United States and Israel over the destination of the Soviet newcomers has focused attention on a loan that was promised to Israel by America. The Bush Administration has criticised Israeli expansion of West Bank settlements and has indicated that it would not follow through on a \$400 million loan guarantee to be used for the housing of Soviet immigrants if it did not receive pledges that they would not be settled in the occupied territories.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev also expressed his dissatisfaction with the situation when he suggested stemming the flow of Soviet Jews to Israel if the government of Yitzhak Shamir did not prevent Soviet immigrants from moving to the occupied territories.

Israel argues that only a small



Soviet Jews: Gloomy prospects ahead

number of Soviet Jews have settled in the occupied territories. It also says that it does not have a stated policy which encourages immigrants to live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Western observers have pointed out that if East Jerusalem were to be included, then 10 per cent of Soviet Jews living in Israel reside in the disputed territories.

The government may also have to face the additional task of absorbing a large number of Ethiopian Jews. Ethiopia plans to permit thousands of Jews to emigrate to Israel within the next few months.

Aside from the costs of absorbing the influx of Soviet Jews, the authorities will have to find a way of preventing an already high unemployment rate from rising. Neubeach says the government will encounter unemployment problems in the short run. "We have to face diffi-

Deposit Rates

Euro-deposit rates:		US	DEM	STG	Yen	SFR
1 mo.	7.7/8	8.00	14.13/16	7.45	8.7/8	
2 mo.	7.15/16	8.1/32	14.15/16	7.50	8.7/8	
3 mo.	7.15/16	8.3/32	14.15/16	7.62	8.7/8	
6 mo.	8.00	8.3/8	14.3/4	7.75	8.5/8	
1 year	8.1/16	8.1/2	14.3/8	7.75	8.1/2	

Interbank rates (Jordan):
Savings accounts 7.5%. Call accounts 8%, 1 week 8.0%, 1 month 8.00%, 2 months 8.25%, 3 months 8.50%, 1 year 9.0%. Lending rate (AAA) 12.5%.

Dollar:
DMK SFR STG YEN CAN FFR
LAST 1.6245/90 1.3830/40 1.8225/35 148.59/63 1.1566/71 5.4090/00
Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Matchmaking

EL BANNA BROTHERS FOR EXPORT 9, Fahmy Wissa street Lorm - Alexandria Tel: 5868407 - 5865076 Telex: 54201	18, Abou Bakr el Sedik street Dokki - Giza Tel: 702152 - 701219 Telex: 22212 BARAKA UN P.O. Box: 156 Orman ● Food stuff
● Dried vegetables - Jam - Fruit juice - Spices - Medicinal herbs	BAVARIA CARIO 7, Naguib El Rihani street, Cairo Tel: 910050 - 903220 Telex: 92377 BAVARIA UN ● Fire-extinguishers

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MAHMOUD FATHI
This free-of-charge service is available to local and foreign businessmen. To publish your commercial interests in this corner please tear-off this box (do not photocopy) and send with details to: Economy Editor, On-Line, The Star, P.O. Box 9313, Amman-Jordan.

Made in Jordan

Following are addresses of importers in the Netherlands who might be interested in Jordanian made casual wear:

1. A.N.T.O.B.V.,
Flevoalan 13 b,
1382 JX Woopse,
Tel: 02940-15309
Tlx: 13504
Imports: Socks, stockings, sportswear, panty hoses.

2. Ameringen en Zoon B.V.,
Van.
Bouwerij 50,
1185 XX Amstelveen.
Tel: 020-455422
Tlx: 34004 VITX NL
Imports: Men's knit and leisure wear, socks.

3. Bindu Textile B.V.,
P.O. Box 131, 2700 AC Zoetermeer,
Franklinstraat 9,
2723 RB Zoetermeer.

Tel: 079-313400
Tlx: 34116
Imports: men's, women's and children's wear.

4. Bueno Overhedenfabriek B.V.,
P.O. Box 17,
7160 AA Neele,
Bergstraat 23-25,
7161 EE Neele.
Tel: 05450-1661
Tlx: 44778
Imports: Shirts.

The high costs of absorbing Soviet Jews into Israel

Continued from page 8

culties to find jobs for all of them," he explains.

According to a study conducted by Bank Hapoalim, 90,000-100,000 new immigrants will arrive each year. Fifty-thousand of those will be of working age. A survey of 100,000 Soviet Jews waiting for immigration permits indicated that 43,000 are professionals, with 54 per cent employed in the academic sector, 21 per cent in technical jobs, 22 per cent in the service and trade sector and three per cent involved in other areas.

Israel has an unemployment rate of nine per cent. That is the highest rate the country has had for 23 years. Sixty-thousand new jobs will have to be created each year in order to prevent a further rise in unemployment. That comes to a 4 per cent rise in the total labour force. It also means a preliminary investment of \$3.62 billion to be followed by an additional investment of \$2.85 billion.

The bank also expects that the number of apartments built each year will have to increase by as much as two and half times its

current rate. But the bank also predicts that 10,000-15,000 new jobs will arise in the business sector over the next few years to meet the rise in demand.

Neubeach agrees. He says the increase in population will create more demand and more jobs. According to the Central Bank, the wave of immigrants is expected to boost economic growth by six per cent within the next four years.

But the government will have to find ways to adjust its economy in order to realise that level of growth. The Central Bank has called on the government to reduce civilian and defence spending in order to effectively cope with the exorbitant costs of absorption.

Defence spending makes up 20 per cent of the annual budget, which is pegged to \$33 billion for fiscal 1990-1991.

According to the Bank of Israel, extra borrowing would equal an estimated one per cent of GNP in 1990, two per cent in 1991 and 1.8 per cent in 1992. Israel's outstanding debt already comes to roughly 130 per cent of GNP.

The bank also said that the absorption process could only oc-

cur if spending was limited on other fronts. It recommended a laissez-faire government policy on immigration and suggested certain measures to enhance the private sector such as low corporate taxes, employers' contributions to income tax and duties on productive imports. It also encouraged steps to increase investments in residential building.

Like other Israeli officials, Neubeach points to other periods of Israeli history when mass immigration was followed by economic growth. In the 1950s and 1960, the Israeli economy grew by eight per cent after periods of intense immigration. From 1973-1974, the economy grew at a rate of 7.5 per cent per year. Neubeach admits that it is hard to draw comparisons between earlier periods of economic growth and the current state of the Israeli economy.

The United Jewish Appeal recently said that American Jews will be asked to give \$420 million in 1990 toward Soviet Jews in Israel. The fund-raising campaign is the largest appeal to American Jews since \$60 million were obtained for an airlift of 7,500 Ethiopians to Israel in 1984-1985.

Mideast Report

Business Notes

Economic policy

THE GOVERNMENT of Jordan has been called upon to help potential investors, but this requires stability, without which investors do not come forth. For example, people are not sure what our exchange rate policy is. The Central Bank prefers to keep its options open. That may be convenient for the bank, but it creates uncertainty, and does not help investors. The Ministry of Finance talks about reform of the tax system, but businessmen still don't know what to expect.

The government may be serious about influencing the flow of imports and exports in order to reduce the foreign exchange gap. However, businessmen have little idea of what incentives and penalties will be used to achieve this, not to mention timing. Jordan's long-term future could be bright, but over the short run, confidence and stability still need to be restored. The National Bloc in parliament claims that "the government has not come up with a clearly defined policy yet," as far as the economy is concerned. Whatever the political motives behind this statement, lots of people in Jordan today would agree that the government's strong point is not economic policy.

Shows & Exhibitions

THE MIDDLE East's first defence and security exhibition — MEDEF 91 — will be held at the new Bahrain International Exhibition Centre between 28 to 31 October 1991. It will introduce a comprehensive range of equipment and technology for the region's external defence forces as well as law enforcement agencies including the police, internal and border security services, militia and paramilitary who will be officially invited to attend the event by the Bahraini Government.

Further information from:
Middle East Arabian Exhibition Management
P.O. Box 20200
Manama, Bahrain
Tel: +973 250033
Fax: +973 242381 Tlx: 9103 EXHIB BN

Contacts and contracts

TN: Tender Number; TD: Price of Tender Documents; BB: Value of Bid Bond; DS: Deadline for Sale of Tender Documents; DD: Date Sale of Tender Documents Begins; SB: Deadline for Submission of Bids; BO: Date Bids are Opened.

— Arab Potash Co., TN: 46/90, supply of sheaves for pumps, TD: JD 15, SB: 19/90, TN: 48/90, supply of general size tyres, TD: JD 100, SB: 22/8/90.

— Ministry of Education, TN: 59/90, supply of silk screen ink, TD: JD 1, SB: 29/7/90.

— Ma'an Municipality, construction of central vegetable market, TD: JD 20, BB: JD 3500, SB: 30/7/90.

— Telecommunications Corp., TN: MM 6/90, (Retendering) furnishing of hangers, TD: JD 10, SB: 9/8/90.

— Central Tenders Committee, TN: 50/90, supervision of Ma'an-Jafer road construction, TD: JD 100, TN: 51/90, supervision of Azraq/Jafer, Azraq/Omar junction project, TD: JD 50, SB: 8/8/90.

— Ministry of Trade and Industry, decoration of Jordan wing of Baghdad fair, SB: 1/8/90.

— Ministry of Supply, TN: 42/90, supply and install two air-conditioning units in grain silos in Aqaba, TD: JD 5, SB: 5/8/90.

— National Medical Institution, supply of provisions to hospitals, TD: JD 250, BB: JD 20,000, SB: 4/8/90.

— Aqaba Ports Corp., TN: 2/90, maintenance of yards and tracks, TD: JD 15, BB: JD 1500, SB: 5/8/90, TN: 1/90, maintenance of eastern terminal, TD: JD 25, BB: JD 3,000, SB: 5/8/90.

— Yarmouk University, TN: L/18/90, supply of various meats, eggs, TD: JD 5, BB: 5 per cent, SB: 4/8/90.

— Royal Scientific Society, TN: 78/90, supply of stationery, TD: JD 3, BB: 10 per cent, SB: 28/7/90.

— Central Tenders Committee, TN: 55/90, constructing modified concrete cable bridge, TD: JD 150, SB: 18/8/90.

— Arab Potash Co., TN: 36/90 (retendering), supply of fuel oil additive with flushing pump, TD: JD 15, SB: 12/8/90.

— University of Science and Technology, TN: 24/90, supply of various meats, TD: JD 20, TN: 25/90, supply of processed meat, TD: JD 20, TN: 26/90, supply of vegetables and fruits, TD: JD 20, BB: JD 1000, SB: 6/8/90.

— Water Authority, TN: 5/90, construction of sewage pipelines in Amman and Madaba, TD: JD 25, SB: 14/8/90.

Our Say

Dialogue above disputes

THE CURRENT dispute between Iraq and Kuwait over oil production shares must not be allowed to develop into an outright crisis. There is more at stake than meets the eye. The only losers, if the situation is allowed to exacerbate, will be the Arabs because it is their wealth, sovereignty and regional stability which will suffer as a result.

It is also important that no foreign interference in the dispute be allowed to take place. Both Iraq and Kuwait, among the rest of Arab countries, realise the dangerous situation which may develop if foreign parties make use of the dispute to infiltrate the region. This is a challenge to Arab diplomacy and a test to the ability of Arab leaders to settle their differences through dialogue and negotiations.

It is not abnormal for neighbouring countries to have disputes over trade relations or common interests. Such disputes take place regularly among countries of the same economic or regional groupings, such as the European Community (EC) or similar clubs. These disputes, however, are dealt with through negotiations and mediations.

In the case of Iraq and Kuwait, The Arab League remains the most appropriate platform for both countries to bring their case to. Also the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is another venue where the current dispute could be solved. The resolutions of any of these organisations will have to be binding to both parties. In the mediation process, a middle ground will have to be reached.

The Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute must not be looked upon as a threat by one party against another. It also must not be taken out of its original context. Those who see an opportunity for a major conflict erupting will, hopefully, be disappointed. The leaderships in both Iraq and Kuwait will have to practice restraint and keep the flow of accusations and counteraccusations well in control.

Meanwhile, the current mediation efforts by President Husni Mubarak of Egypt can only bear fruit if all Arabs rally to contain the dispute.

Whatever the facts are, this remains an inter-Arab dispute. It must remain so and will have to be solved through inter-Arab mediation. This is the message that all parties to the conflict must send to the world.

No one will gain if the problem becomes regionalised and gets out of the control of the Arabs.

Both countries have full right to state their case. This they must do before a solution to the dispute is found. Whatever the results of mediation efforts it is important that parties adhere to them. Without such commitment to dialogue and peaceful negotiations, the enemies of this nation will grab the opportunity to push all parties towards a point of no return.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Apprenticeships help

To the Editor:

THE FOLLOWING is Frank Sinatra's advice to his son: "Do anything you want, son, but do it well and study hard. A long apprenticeship helps."

One of the missing links in our chain of education is proper and coded apprenticeship. The inexperienced university graduate seeks a top level job that is beyond his size by any standard. The inexperienced young woman fresh from a secretarial institute seeks a responsible position. For to work as an assistant typist for a limited period of time is a disgrace. Such arrogant and irrational mental attitudes muddle life completely. If a graduate of one of the leading universities in Europe or America passes through a period of apprenticeship, why shouldn't our graduates follow suit? Apprenticeship refines, purifies and polishes the personality of our graduates. It, furthermore, defers and externalises the woes of early and incompetent marriages. Laws enacted by the legislative body or power as to tariffs and years of apprenticeship for each and every professions are urgently needed to institute and regulate apprenticeship in our country.

Moreover, apprenticeship may not be in a position to halt the driving power of mobility between the professions in a country like Jordan, but it will certainly restrict such a mobility, thus, resulting in a more stable labour market.

A country with a specialised labour force is apt to face an increase in unemployment, and this applies in particular to countries with limited natural and economic resources like Jordan, if and when depression hits that country. For a change of occupation requires a period of training lasting several years. To remedy such a situation and overcome it in its entirety, the curriculums at our schools, college and universities should be flexible, yielding and serving practical purposes and situations.

Although labour is potentially the most mobile factor of production, it is often highly immobile. Therefore, the aim of any government is to build a robust, flexible and trained labour force.

George N. Saig
Amman.

PostScript

by Osama El-Sherif

To boycott..or not

THE CALL to boycott American-made products is becoming a personal crusade for some Jordanian intellectuals and zealots. Newspaper columnists, deputies and social figures have been appealing to Jordanians from all walks of life to boycott anything that relates to America; from chewing gum to fourth of July cocktail parties.

It is difficult, however, to measure public response to such declarations.

Here in Jordan we don't have public polls or instant surveys which can indicate popular moods. Instead, the Jordanian society seems to thrive on rumours and instigations.

Naturally, not all of those working to ostracise America are opportunists. Some harbour honest motivations. Their sole objective is to drive home a message of disgust and frustration with US policy in the Middle East, especially towards the plight of Palestinians under Israeli occupation.

It is doubtful, however, to see Washington's attitudes towards this region changing because of such a boycott so long as it remains confined to Jordan and is practised at a small scale.

Yet, the boycott has had a psychological impact on those who have heeded the call. It feels good to know that one is able, at a personal level, to punish a superstate, even though the effect of the Jordanian boycott on the economy of the United States will not be noticeable.

Ideally, one would have liked to see a pan-Arab boycott of American-made goods. We could be talking of billions of dollars worth of imports annually. Such a loss is bound to hurt American industrialists, who in turn will put pressure on their government to do something about its policies.

This, however, is not the case.

Another scenario is to have oil-producing Arab countries impose an embargo on oil shipment to the United States and withdraw billions of dollars from American banks. This will surely open some eyes back in Washington. But this too has become a utopian project. Gulf countries will probably suffer huge losses as a result of the boycott while their share of the market will be filled by other OPEC rivals in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

In addition to this, it is very unlikely that the United States will allow the Arabs to make instant withdrawals of their deposits.

So the consumer war on America remains a feeble one. Governments will disengage themselves from individual actions, while making sure that the US government knows of such disengagement.

But having said all this, is there really anything that we can do, at both the individual and popular levels, to open Americans' eyes?

In the absence of a pan-Arab strategy, which by the way is the cure of all ills, individuals can do little to sober up congressmen and White House officials. The issue at hand is political and will continue to be so. American interests in this

region are not confined to marketing cake syrup and corn flakes. They are becoming intricately indigenous with our political, social and economic structures. And in politics, one party has to have leverage over the other, if that party wishes to dictate a certain policy or overrule another. At this stage, our leverage as Arabs is limited; America's, on the other hand, is quite substantial.

To play the game, one must understand its rules, otherwise one will lose. To deal with US foreign policy in the region, we must understand how this policy is formulated back in Washington; we must know its motives and the bases on which it rests. Also, we must come to grips with the fact that since US policy in the region affects, in the long run, all Arabs, confronting such a policy and dealing with it must come out of a pan-Arab conviction.

This, unfortunately, is not evolving the way it should. In fact, it is no secret that inter-Arab squabbling has dealt severe setbacks to inter-Arab co-operation and coordination.

The way to confront American policy is to build up a case from within the United States. That could be a long and tiring process with many frustrations. But we have to remember that we, as Arabs, are not dealing with a poor and isolated republic. This is the age of American hegemony where Washington's influence extends to all regions of the world.

In addition to this, we have to remember that not all Americans are enemies of Arab causes. There are those who see things in away different from that of Israel and its American sympathisers. Our goal must not be to ostracise America, although I am not against boycott as a symbolic gesture and I am sure US policy makers will see it as such. Our objective should be to bring our case to America and to play the game by its rules.

Only those powerful enough can change the rules of the game. Until we are able to do this, we will have to settle with more traditional, but effective, methods of battling Israel's sympathisers in the United States.

Conventional methods include investing Arab petro-dollars in making grassroots contact with Americans, influencing public opinion as well as capitalising on our enemy's crimes and blunders — and they are many.

For such a task to begin, however, change must happen here, at home. Individuals who think they are ready to battle a superpower must focus their efforts on understanding how the machinery of US policy-making functions. This can be done even without inter-Arab co-operation. But by the end of the day, the fact remains that pan Arab movement, out of sheer private interest and survival, is the best tool to deal with external threats and challenges.

Boycotting American goods is not such a bad idea. But it should not be blown out of proportion. Changing or influencing US foreign policy in the region requires more than checking the shelves of cars on supermarket shelves, although that in itself is a humble act of protest.



Opinion

Regional security for the Middle East

By Mattityahu Peled

THE MIDDLE East has become, due to inherent conflicts and superpower involvement, a very dangerous power keg with all the most advanced weapons systems deployed for immediate use. A preliminary condition for reducing present tensions in the region is curbing the unrestricted arms race, which has reached the level of many billions of dollars spent annually on arms acquisition. But separating the issue of the arms race from the local conflicts may prove impossible, and therefore the need to tackle both the political and military aspects of the situation seems unavoidable.

The relations between the two superpowers have improved over the last couple of years, and the notion of arms reduction has become a practical proposition. This looked at first as an encouraging development which may help reduce regional tensions and thus provide some kind of de facto regional security arrangement for the Middle East.

But it soon became clear that the opposite result was more likely. Already in January of this year the chief of the CIA, William Webster, stated to the Senate Armed Services Committee that as a result of the improved relations between the US and the Soviet Union the likelihood of conflicts breaking out in the Middle East has increased.

The logic of such a prediction is easy to see. Due to the policy of arms reduction both superpowers will soon be faced with the problem of disposing of their surplus weapons systems. In addition to that, their huge arms-producing industries are already faced with the need to look for new markets as outlets for their great production potential. At the same time, in the Middle East the sense that the superpowers may gradually disengage themselves from their traditional commitments has already speeded up the arms race.

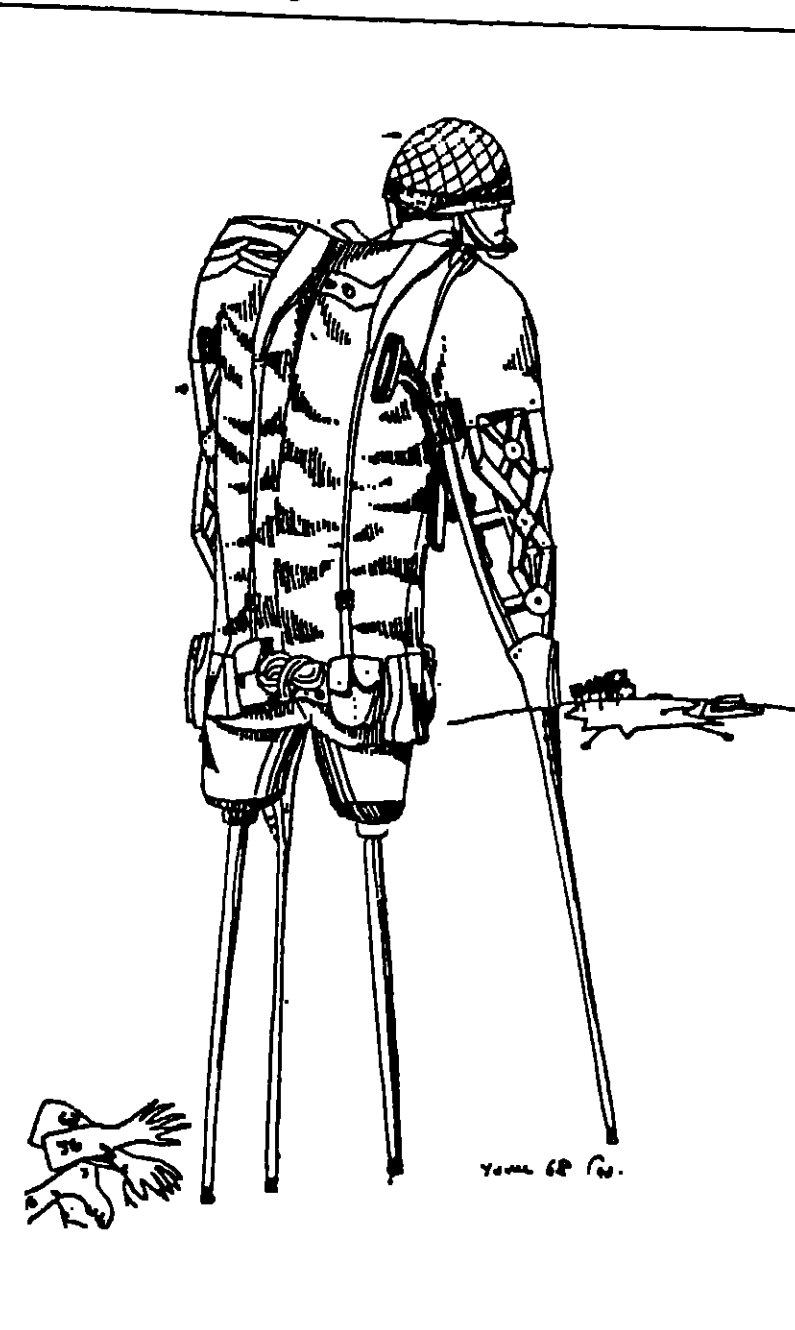
We are witnessing, therefore, a dangerous combination of increased supplies of arms, which would necessarily bring down prices, and expanded demand for them. The US alone is speculating to increase its arms sales to the Third World in the immediate future by some \$30 billion, one-third of which is expected to be realised this year with Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Oman, Tunisia and Morocco as potential buyers.

This situation has already intensified the involvement of West European firms in the fray. They supply not only finished goods but provide know-how and technical advice in support of local production. Recent examples are German involvement in the construction of the chemical plants in Libya, French involvement in the development of long-range missiles in Iraq, and, not to be outdone, the US is supplying large computers for nuclear development in Israel and elsewhere. Officials at the Pentagon estimate that it would be impossible to extend the arms reduction policy to Third World countries because the Soviet Union too is faced with the problem of finding new markets for its huge arms-producing potential and considers arms export a source of hard currency.

It appears, therefore, that reducing the arms race by limiting supply is an unrealistic proposition. The alternative proposition would be trying to reduce or eliminate the demand for arms. But can this be expected without first providing a political settlement of the conflicts lying at the root of the arms race? The answer is probably no.

If so, what should we consider as the basic requirements for such a settlement, and what kind of security arrangements can be envisaged following such a settlement? No one can presume to come up with detailed answers to these questions. But, perhaps we can suggest the parameters within which the answers to these questions may be found. Such parameters are not so difficult to define. Which countries should be considered as participants in a regional security arrangement? What would be the minimal political conditions for such an arrangement? Would such an arrangement be primarily introverted — aiming at regulating the intra-regional security relations — or would it have also extroverted tendencies — aiming at foreign powers?

The following is meant to be a scheme which seems to me to have a reasonable chance of being accepted both regionally and internationally. In the course of outlining it I shall try to elucidate the parameters of a solution and the procedure which may lead to regional security.



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The plan

1) The parties to be involved in the negotiations and formulation of the

settlement: Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Syria and the Palestinians (PLO).

2) The forum: a conference of the countries involved plus the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, where the parties would engage in bilateral and multilateral talks and where bilateral and multilateral agreements will be concluded.

3) The questions to be resolved are of two categories:

I. Political aspects (without which no progress can be envisaged):

a) the problem of Palestinian self-determination;

b) the problem of resettlement of the Palestinian refugees;

c) the status of the Golan Heights;

d) the problem of Jewish property left in the Arab countries (Iraq, Egypt, Syria, North Africa), which is of great concern to more than half of the Jewish population of Israel;

e) the problem of the Jewish inhabitants living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

II. Military aspects:

a) de-nuclearisation of the military arsenals and adoption of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;

b) elimination of all means of mass destruction (chemical and biological);

c) non-aggression pact of all the Middle Eastern countries involved, effective for 15 years, to be sanctioned by the Security Council; other countries of the region would be allowed to join in due course;

d) limiting the military budgets of all countries involved to 5 per cent of the GNP, except for Iraq and Israel, which will be allowed 10 per cent

each; the former — until a non-aggression pact is signed between Iraq and Iran; the latter — for the duration of the pact (all in all saving many billions of dollars in faltering economies);

e) defence budget of the Palestinian state — if a separate state is established as a result of the exercise of the right of self-determination — limited to 1 per cent of GNP (exclusive of foreign aid).

4) Negotiation period: two years beginning with the summoning of the international peace conference in accordance with UN General Assembly Resolution 38/58B of 13 December, 1983.

5) Implementation:

1. Transition period — five years, during which the following will take place:

a) planning the resettlement programme for Palestinian refugees;

b) preparing and carrying out Palestinian self-determination procedure;

c) setting up regional and international inspection machinery;

d) reducing military arsenals to levels according to treaties;

e) determining the extent of Jewish property left in Arab countries and the ways of compensating for it.

II. Execution — five years:

a) beginning of Palestinian refugees resettlement process;

b) beginning process of compensating for Jewish property left in Arab countries;

c) implementing results of Palestinian self-determination;

d) implementing resolutions regarding the Golan Heights and other territorial adjustments.

In all, a period of 12 years, during which all attention will be focused on preparing and establishing a level of security in the region satisfactory to all parties. By the end of the first two years, all the decisions will have been made and the general direction of development clearly outlined. Reduction of weapons arsenals will become effective by the end of the seventh year. By that time practical measures will have been taken to plan the resettlement of the Palestinian refugees in accordance with the treaties concluded at the peace conference and prepare the process of Palestinian self-determination. In the course of the next five years, territorial adjustments will be made and the resolution of the Palestinian people concerning their own political future will be implemented.

We can see here a gradation of measures ensuring that each phase brings some advantages to the parties and outlines further progress to be looked for. By the end of the rather lengthy period of 12 years, the whole outlook of the Middle Eastern countries will have changed and the strategic relations will have assumed an entirely different aspect. The intensive engagement of the governments involved in jointly shaping their future should provide sufficient assurance that the new situation can allow them to trust the outcome of their endeavours.

Mattityahu Peled is a former member of the Israeli Knesset.

I&P Report
THE STAR 11

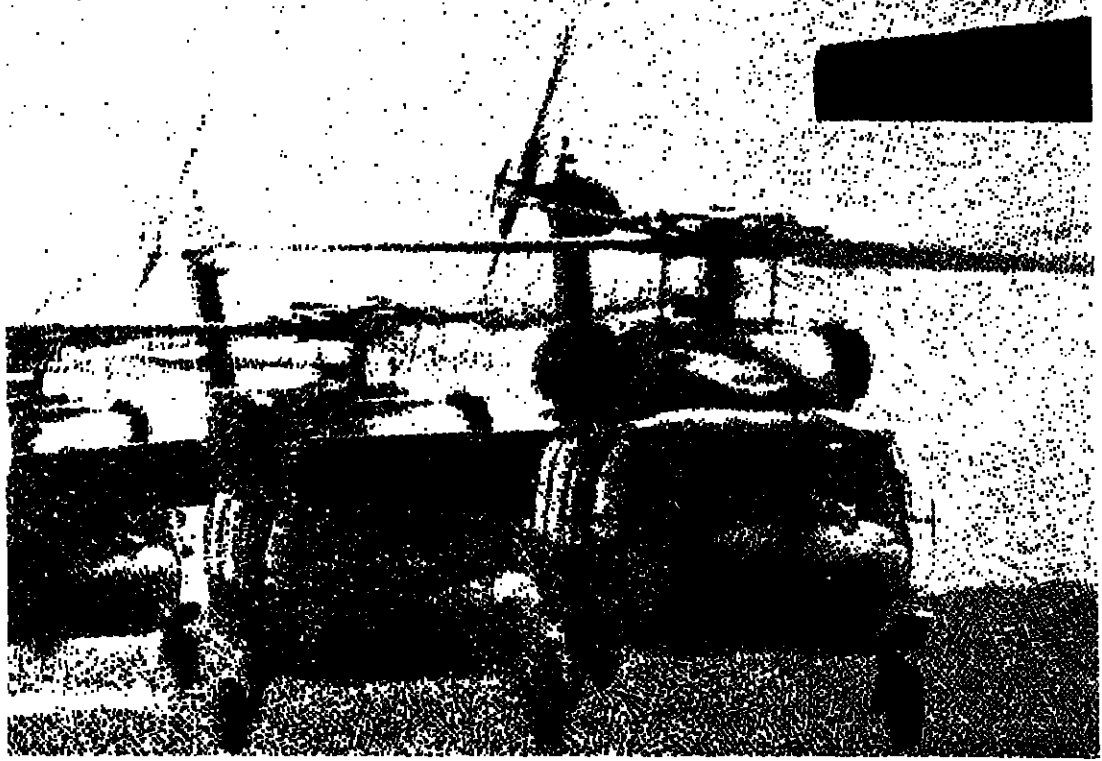
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An independent political, economic and cultural weekly, published every Thursday in Amman in co-operation with Media Services International (Info-Media).
Editorial & Advertising: Fax & Telephone 648298, P.O. Box 9313, Amman - Jordan.
Typesetting, layout and processing done exclusively on Apple Macintosh system using Desk top-publishing software.

11 JULY 1990

Arms sales to Third World dropped 24% to \$29.3 billion in 1989



ARMS SALES to the Third World fell sharply in 1989, as major weapons makers in the United States, the Soviet Union, China and Europe found less responsive buyers for their products, according to a report conducted by the Congressional Research Service of the United States on 19 June.

Third World nations are relying on the weaponry which they

purchased in the last two decades instead of buying new, expensive goods. They are also burdened by heavy debts and are unable to direct funds toward a new line of weapons. US weapons manufacturers will also face a shrinking market due to the gradual eradication of the Cold War.

Although there has been a scaling back of regional conflicts

throughout the developing world, some nations directly involved in them received significant arms deliveries in 1989, said the report. Iraq and Iran, for instance, received over \$1.93 billion and \$1.29 billion in arms deliveries, respectively, in 1989, with the Soviet Union and China acting as major suppliers.

Last year, total sales decreased by 24% to \$29.3 billion. That

represents the lowest total for any year during the period from 1982-1989, the report said.

Seven of the ten leading Third World arms recipients recorded declines in the value of their arms transfer agreements from 1982-1985 to 1986-1989, said the report. Middle East and Gulf countries showed particularly significant decreases: Syria 54.6%, Saudi Arabia nearly 49%, Iraq 43.4% and Libya 30.3%.

According to the report, three of the top ten Third World arms recipients showed significant declines in the values of the arms actually delivered from 1982-1985 to 1986-1989. Libya fell by almost 62%, from \$9.1 billion to \$3.4 billion; Iraq fell 34.9%, from \$27.7 billion to \$18 billion; Syria dropped 44.3% from nearly \$9.9 billion to \$5.5 billion. The Soviet Union is the main supplier to all three Arab countries. Moscow was also the principal supplier to eight of the top ten arms recipients in the developing world in 1989.

Last year, the oil-rich kingdom of Saudi Arabia received close to \$4.9 billion in arms deliveries, making it the Third World's leading buyer. It was followed by Afghanistan (\$3.8 billion), India (\$3.27 billion), Iraq (\$1.93 billion), Iran (\$1.29 billion), Vietnam (\$1.26 billion), Cuba (\$1.2 billion), Syria (\$1 billion), Libya (\$980 million) and Ethiopia (\$920 million), according to the US government. The United Kingdom was Saudi Arabia's major supplier.

From 1982-1989, "Saudi Arabia and Iraq have been, by a wide margin, the top two Third World arms recipients, receiving deliveries valued at \$46.7 billion and \$45.7 billion, respectively," the report said.

In early July Saudi Arabia formally signed a \$4 billion agreement to buy advanced US tanks, support equipment and ammunition.

In 1981, Airborne Warning And Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft sales to the Saudis sparked a heated debate between Congress and the Reagan Administration. But this time Congress showed little opposition to the long-awaited deal.

The agreement includes 163 M1-A1 tanks and 62 M1-A2 tanks for about \$4 million each. However, the total cost will mostly cover support equipment, spare parts, training, facilities construction and munitions. The Warren, Michigan-based Land Systems Division of General Dynamics Corp. will be the prime contractor.

The Saudi military machine is mostly made up of US hardware. In October, the Bush Administration disclosed a \$3.1 billion sale of 315 M-1 Abrams tanks, 30 recovery vehicles, 175 trucks and support equipment.

Iraq, on the other hand, has relied on the East for its weaponry. The Soviet Union has been Baghdad's leading arms supplier, with \$6.2 billion in arms transfer agreements between the two countries from 1986-1989.

In 1989, the US accounted for 26% of all arms transfer agreements with the Third World, while the Soviet Union concluded 38.4%. Soviet arms sales to

the developing world decreased by 21% last year, to \$11.2 billion. At the same time, US arms sales fell by 14%, to \$7.7 billion, according to the report.

Major West European countries (France, United Kingdom, West Germany, and Italy) directly followed with 17% of Third World sales. China signed 4% of the total arms transfer agreements with the developing world last year.

During the 1980s, China became a key player in the global arms industry. The country emerged as an important supplier of arms to the Third World, with agreements climbing to nearly \$5 billion in 1987 and then falling to nearly \$2.4 billion the following year. In terms of the value of its arms transfer agreements, China was the world's third largest supplier of arms to the developing world from 1986-1989 and fifth from 1982-1989.

The People's Republic was well-equipped to capitalise on the arms requirements of the bloody war between Iran and Iraq. During 1982-1989, almost 55% of China's arms transfer agreements with the Third World were with Iran and Iraq.

Last month, the US was concerned over reports that Beijing was selling chemicals to Libya which could be used in chemical weapons production. China signed an agreement not to produce or supply chemical weapons. Beijing also gave its support for the prohibition and destruction of all chemical weapons and has stated its opposition to the manufacture and transfer of chemical and bacteriological weapons. But anonymous US officials said Tripoli and Beijing were discussing the delivery of chemical weapons to Libya.

In other developments, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in its annual report that international spending on armaments dropped by 2% in real terms in 1989 to roughly \$950 billion.

The report said that spending in the US, the Soviet Union, the Third World and Eastern Europe fell while the level was stable in Canada, the European NATO countries and Japan. The report also indicated that the industrialised countries in the West and East accounted for more than 85%, or \$810 billion, of the total sum spent on arms in 1989.

The United States' military expenditure totaled \$302.294 billion in 1989. That marked a drop of almost 2% in real terms in comparison to 1988.

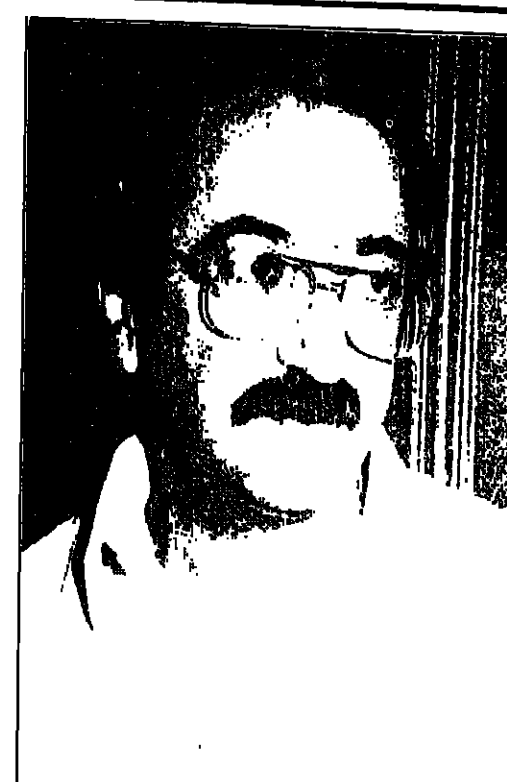
The report also said that reductions in arms transfers to the Third World, which started in the mid-1980s, continued due to economic problems plaguing most developing countries. SIPRI of Sweden pointed out that the economic situation in the Third World grew worse in the past decade, with per capita income falling by 16% between 1981 and 1988 in sub-Saharan Africa and by 5% in Latin America, mostly due to debt interest payments estimated at \$175 billion a year. The report indicated, however, that the developing world's proportion of military spending to national revenue did not decrease.

MidEast Report
26 JULY 1990



Doureid Lahham 'reaching for a dream'

By Khaldoun Tabaza
Special to The Star



"IT IS up to the artist to express what he wants in a pleasant and intelligent manner. If he does that correctly then he can reach the very extremes of criticism using acceptable words without being prohibited from doing so," says Doureid Lahham, the Syrian-born actor and director who, through his 25-year long career, has achieved enormous popularity all over the Arab world.

The widespread popularity of Doureid Lahham may largely be attributed to the continuous development of his style. Starting with his film "Al-Hodoud" (The Borders) in which he plays the role of an Arab citizen who loses his passport in an area between the borders of two Arab countries, Doureid Lahham made a dramatic change concerning the issues and ideas presented in his films. Lahham's early films may be categorised as commercial, but in his latest ones, he presented a whole new combination of themes.

"My new films came as a continuation of the complete change I made in the theatre with plays like 'Daiei Tishroon', 'Ghorbeh' and 'Kasak Ya Watan'. In these plays, I started to present the concerns, problems, dreams and hopes of the Arab citizen through my works, instead of offering mere comedy plays," says Lahham, who was in Amman last week to attend the screening of his latest film, "Kafroon".

"The issues I present are the ones which the child inside of me thinks of. When we were young children we always dreamt about unity, about one Arab world, and we sang songs to strengthen these feelings inside us. As I grew older, I started to realise that my childhood dreams were just useless articles we read, and songs we heard on the radio. Now we started to demand that our childhood dreams come true," he says.

At a time when commercialism prevails in the Arab film industry, Lahham's new films come as exceptional cases. "For me," he says, "art may still be a hobby. Through radio, television, theatre or through poetry

one can take a stand and express one's opinion on his surroundings. So I consider art a means of saying what I think." He says that his ideas may coincide with the ideas of other people who will come and see his work, since they can see themselves through it.

His new film, "Kafroon", which is being shown all over the Arab world is different in many aspects from his previous two films.

"Kafroon" tells the story of Wadood (Doureid Lahham) who works as a school clerk in a village called "Kafroon". Besides his work as a clerk, Wadood fills the jobs of the janitor, the doorman and even works as a replacement teacher for the "irresponsible" teachers at the school. An increasing love relationship grows between Wadood and the children of the school because of his kindness and goodness. Wadood is then accused of a murder he did not commit and the children help to find the real criminal.

"Kafroon", which will be the opening film at Cairo's first Children Cinema Festival, to be held in the Egyptian capital soon, is a pure social film. It talks about love and happiness in a romantic way, about human relationships and how love should replace hatred. "Kafroon" is a family film," says Lahham. "It is not aimed at the elite or at people of any specific age."

Lahham's experience in producing a film with children may be the first of its kind in the Arab world. "I think that there had never been an Arabic film whose heroes and main characters were children. I had a wonderful experience working with children and I am intending to do it again. My next film will be

also about children and it will be called 'Young Fathers'," he says.

Lahham says that during the shooting of the film he always felt as if he was a father to the children who gave him love and friendship.

Another feature which may have contributed to the increasing success of Lahham's works is his own directing of the films. "I feel less stressed and more comfortable when I direct my own films. When I participate in the writing of the scenario, the ideas become part of me, and I comprehend them better than any other director," he says.

Only a few artists in the Arab world have succeeded in bringing their work into the homes of every Arab family, conservative or liberal, Muslim or Christian, and Lahham proudly stands among those artists.

"The secret behind all of this is that I am usually honest with myself and with my audience, and I always talk about things that I feel strongly about, and these things shouldn't be different from what people feel all over the Arab world. For example, the dream of unity is the dream of every Arab, so when I talk about unity, I talk for every Arab and thus I reach the very soul of everyone," he says.

Still far beyond the levels reached by the film industry in other parts of the world, Lahham considers the Arab film industry as "non-developing." He states that the Arab film industry should extract its subjects, means and techniques from its own environment and should not import foreign ideas. "We have different schools and directions in the Arab world, but these schools cannot create new talents, they can only enhance and raise those which already exist," Lahham notes.

"I achieved absolutely nothing up till now," Lahham says. "I will know that I have achieved something when I see changes happening in front of my own eyes. Changes must happen in the Arab world, some slight changes are occurring now but these are still far from real democracy," he says.

And as for his dream of achieving Arab Unity, "Just as other peoples brought down the Berlin Wall and united, we must destroy the artificial walls separating the Arab nation and reach for our dream," Lahham says.

Scrapbook

A bird's view

A GROUP of 14 boys aged 11 and 12 left Amman earlier this week for Frankfurt. They are the stars of Amman Little League Baseball. They went to Germany representing Jordan in the regional tournament whose outcome decides which teams will go to the United States to play in the Little League World Series. The team is accompanied by three coaches.

The Amman Little League Association (ALLA) has been in existence for more than 12 years. It is different from all other Jordanian sports organisations in that it relies totally on volunteers to run its activities. The ALLA runs three sports a year, soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter and baseball in the spring.

Each sport is organised by a commissioner who manages the 20-26 teams. The commissioner makes sure the teams get adequate practice time and that the matches they play every Friday proceed smoothly. He also ensures that each team has two coaches and a team mom.

The nice thing is that the ALLA is an organisation catering to children aged 5-15 and is run entirely by volunteer adults. So, we are talking about over 300 children per sport, and over 100 adult volunteers.

To help finance all the activities, each team has a sponsor. The sponsors are private businesses which get a team named after them in exchange for a fee.

The atmosphere on the field is great. Parents, volunteers and children are one big happy family enjoying the sport and having a good time, because the idea is not winning or losing, but promoting sportsmanship and learning the game.

This is not the first time that the ALLA has sent a team to Germany. They sent one last year and I was told it was a great experience. Who knows, maybe this will be the nucleus of a Jordanian Olympic baseball team (baseball will be an Olympic sport in 1992).

This is a great way of promoting a sport and I suggest the Ministry of Youth and the different Jordanian sports federations learn a few lessons from the ALLA.

Just reading the sports pages in the local newspapers tells you that the federations are in a really pitiful state. They have boards of directors, committees and sub-committees, and they still cannot solve their problems. The clubs suffer from severe financial problems and the teams swing from substandard to mediocre. Just check the results when they play in any international competition. I am not trying to put anyone down. I am only saying that there is a better way.

This Little League baseball team may not come away winning the World Series, but they are all winners: players, coaches and other volunteers. They will proudly wear the Jordanian flag on their uniforms and every Jordanian should be proud that they do.

Magda Hamzeh



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Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al-Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries, and a collection of paintings by 19th century Orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Weibdeh. Hours 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630126.

St. Joseph Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 62498.

Church of the Annunciation: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Weibdeh. Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church: (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757.

Terrassanta Church: (Roman Catholic), Jabal Weibdeh, mass in Italian every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.

Church of the Redeemer: (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623541.

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Armenian Orthodox Church: Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.

St. Ephraim Church: (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church: (Interdenominational) meet at Southern Baptist School 3 Shmoisani, Tel. 827981.

Church of the Good Shepherd: (Evangelical Lutheran) Um As-Summaq. Tel. 811295.

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COMICS

calvin and hobbes

by WATERS

Panel 1: Calvin is sitting at his desk, looking at a piece of paper. He says, "UH OH! IN ANOTHER OF LIFE'S MYSTERIOUS QUIRKS, CALVIN FINDS HIMSELF AN INCH TALL ON THE WRITING DESK!"

Panel 2: Calvin is looking at the paper, which now has a small hole in it. He says, "HIS ONLY HOPE IS TO TEAR OFF A SHEET FROM A NEARBY PAD OF PAPER."

Panel 3: Calvin is tearing a piece of paper from a nearby pad. He says, "AT HIS TINY SIZE, FOLDING THE SHEET IS DIFFICULT, BUT SOON CALVIN'S PATIENCE IS REWARDED!"

Panel 4: Calvin is holding the small piece of paper. He says, "HE PUSHES OFF AND CATCHES A SMALL THERMAL RISING UP THE FRONT OF THE DESK!"

Panel 5: Calvin is looking at the paper, which now has a small hole in it. He says, "A GUST FROM AN OPEN WINDOW SENDS CALVIN SOARING ACROSS THE HOUSE!"

Panel 6: Calvin is flying through the air. He says, "THERE'S DAD! LEAN! LEAN!"

Panel 7: Calvin is flying through the air. He says, "YES! CALVIN IS ABLE TO STEER! THIS SHOULD GET DAD'S ATTENTION!"

Panel 8: Calvin is flying through the air. He says, "I DON'T NEED PARENTS. ALL I NEED IS A RECORDING THAT SAYS, 'GO PLAY OUTSIDE!'"

The Far Side

By GARY LARSON

Panel 1: A man is sitting at a desk, looking at a piece of paper. He says, "STRAVINSKY'S VIOLINS GALORE!"

Panel 2: A man is sitting at a desk, looking at a piece of paper. He says, "Somebody better run fetch the sheriff."

Panel 3: A man is sitting at a desk, looking at a piece of paper. He says, "Various philosophies."

Panel 4: A man is sitting at a desk, looking at a piece of paper. He says, "Dibs."

Panel 5: A man is sitting at a desk, looking at a piece of paper. He says, "Oh, is that so? ... Well, if there's anything I hate worse than a big, stupid cat, it's a big, stupid banana!"

Panel 6: A man is sitting at a desk, looking at a piece of paper. He says, "What did I say? Alex? ... Every time we invite the zombies over, we all end up just sitting around staring at each other."

Panel 7: A man is sitting at a desk, looking at a piece of paper. He says, "Well, a minimal just wait a minimal he need to worry ... According to this, we're dealing with a"

Panel 8: A man is sitting at a desk, looking at a piece of paper. He says, "Well, okay, Frank ... Maybe it is just a wing."